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THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is supplied regularly to every member of the following Societies:—

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South African Pharmaceutical Association.  
Pharmaceutical Society of Natal.  
Central Pharmaceutical Association of N.Z.  
Otago Pharmaceutical Association.  
Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland.  
Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia.  
Pharmaceutical Society of Tasmania.  
Pharmaceutical Society of Western Australia.

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### A GIRDLE TO THE GLOBE.

OUR publisher informs us that his arrangements for printing THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY for 1897 are now rapidly approaching completion, and we think it right to advise firms who have not yet given him instructions for their advertisements in it to do so at once. The DIARY is certainly the most important pharmaceutical publication of the year; it speaks all the year round, and its circulation is a veritable girdle to the globe, as it is subscribed for and used by pharmacists and drug houses in every civilised country in the world. The publisher asks us to add to the foregoing that advertisers having current contracts with THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST and requiring alterations made in their advertisements for the DIARY should communicate with him without delay. It sometimes happens that an advertisement, admirably suited for our weekly issue, can be improved or modified for insertion in the DIARY, and it is our desire to meet the wishes of advertisers in this matter.

### Summary.

THE price of salicylic acid has gone down about 25 per cent this week (p. 626).

MR BRAXTON HICKS reads a lecture to a chemist on the sale of laudanum (p. 603).

THE Holborn Guardians have not yet made up their mind<sup>s</sup> how beef-tea should be made (p. 607).

THE remarkable increase in the price of croton-seeds is the subject of some comment on p. 623.

THE Convention of the American wholesale druggists was held in Philadelphia on October 6 (p. 610).

BOVRIL, bought last week for two millions sterling, is now estimated to be worth 2,500,000*l.* (p. 607).

A SERIOUS fire has occurred on the premises of Messrs. McMaster, Hodgson & Co., Dublin (p. 603).

THE names of those who have passed the Irish Pharmaceutical Examinations are given on p. 608.

WE discuss on p. 620 proposals which are under consideration for altering the tariff on South African imports.

THE right to the title of "Porteous's Vegetable Ointment" has been settled in the Court of Session, Edinburgh (p. 615).

TRÉCUL, a noted French botanist, who in his early day did much useful exploring work in South America, has died (p. 609).

MR BRUDENELL CARTER replies to some criticisms on his address, especially in regard to the word "reliable" (p. 630).

IN connection with the proposed revision of the Russian Customs tariff we print a table of that country's chemical imports (p. 610).

THE illness of Dr. Trimen, superintendent of the Peradeniya Botanic Gardens, has terminated fatally. A biographical note is given on p. 623.

SOME interesting particulars concerning the Icech, and the decline of its employment as a medicinal agent, are given in a paper by Mr. Capit, Brighton (p. 614).

OUR Paris correspondent gives particulars of the explosion of acetylene which has occurred at M. Pictet's laboratory, causing the death of two workmen (p. 609).

DR. JOHN H. CLARKE gives us some interesting particulars of Déclat's claim to priority over Sir J. Lister in the advocacy of an antiseptic treatment of wounds (p. 631).

MR. DARTON GIBBS, in a paper read before the Birmingham Assistants' Association, criticises the basis on which dispensing charges are generally reckoned (p. 613). We comment on the paper on p. 618.

MR. GEORGE SMITH, one of the founders of the Apollinaris Company, proposes to realise a part of his share in that concern. He owns a half of the enterprise, and this half is to be offered to the public for 450,000*l.* (p. 625).

A DOCTOR has brought an action against the Od Chem Company for printing in their pamphlet a professed testimonial from him. The testimonial is alleged to have been a forgery. An interim injunction has been granted (p. 616).

JUDGE WADDY, of the Sheffield County Court, has again expressed his sympathy with a defendant who had infringed the Pharmacy Act, and he gives effect to his sympathy by allowing as small a proportion of the costs as he dares (p. 615).

THE John D. Park Company, of Cincinnati, did a dramatic thing at Philadelphia the other day, by serving representatives of leading wholesale houses with writs when they were attending the Wholesalers' Convention. This is the second step in the Park anti-anti-cutting crusade (p. 610).

A NEW and extended list of protected articles is announced by the Proprietary Articles Trade Association. Among others, Powell's Balsam, Beetham's preparations, Möller's cod-liver oil, and Z.x preparations are now added (p. 611). Day's Southern Drug Company have addressed proprietors in opposition to the movement (p. 611).



## English News

*The Editor is obliged to correspondents who send local newspapers containing items of interest to the trade. He will be further obliged if such paragraphs be marked in all cases.*

### The Legacy to the Cardiff Infirmary by a Chemist.

At the monthly meeting of the committee of the Cardiff Infirmary, held on October 14, Mr. George David stated, on behalf of Mr. T. H. Stephens, solicitor, acting in the matter of the bequest to the institution by the late Mr. T. J. Jones, chemist, Bute Street, that the personal estate of the deceased gentlemen amounted to 5,722*l.* 19*s.*, out of which pecuniary legacies, debts, &c., to the amount of 3,329*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, were to be deducted, leaving a balance of 2,393*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* In addition to this there were 12 acres of land near Bridgend, purchased a few years ago for 1,010*l.*, which would increase the net value to 3,403*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* The whole of the property, real and personal, was given to the widow for life. All her debts, present and future, were to be paid out of it, and the residue was then to revert to the Infirmary, and a ward is to be founded to be named the "Jones the Chemist Ward." After considerable discussion, it was decided to take counsel's opinion on the question as to whether an annuity could be made to Mrs. Jones in exchange for the whole of the property.

### Offered for Sale.

The premises of the late Mr. R. Killick, druggist and grocer, of Hungerford, were submitted to public competition by Mr. A. W. Neate, on Wednesday, but as the biddings did not realise the reserve price the property was unsold. The business was established about fifty years ago by Mr. Killick, since whose death, in 1895, it has been carried on by the executors.

### Contracts for Drugs, &c.

At a meeting of the Dartford Rural District Council on October 17 tenders were opened for the supply of drugs from October, 1896, to March, 1897. Quotations were submitted by Messrs. Baiss Brothers, London; Messrs. Corbyn, Stacey & Co., London; Mr. Edward Berry, Canterbury; Messrs. Horrell & Goff, Dartford; the General Apothecaries' Company, London; Mr. W. Tucker, Dartford; and Messrs. Burgoyne, Barbidges & Co., London. The tenders were referred to a committee.

Contracts have been accepted for drugs, &c., from Mr. Curtis, chemist and druggist, Mutford Bridge, for the Mutford and Lothingland Union.

### Sunflower-growing in Essex.

It is suggested that the agricultural distress in Essex might be somewhat relieved by the cultivation of the sunflower in that county. The soil of Essex is said to be particularly favourable for that culture, which, from the oil produced and the value of the crushed seed for poultry, cattle, and game food, would, it is expected, prove a paying crop. One acre of land would accommodate over 10,000 plants (planted 2 feet apart), and, allowing for 20 per cent. of failure, would yield 8,000 plants, producing over 8,000 quarts of seed. In Russia eighty mills are devoted to the crushing of sunflower-seeds for the oil, and the Russians prefer it to the finest Italian "olive" oils. Many acres of unproductive land between London and Shoeburyness might, it is said, be made to yield financial results. This would also apply to such counties as Suffolk, Norfolk, and Lincolnshire, where the necessary conditions of moisture and freedom from shade prevail.

### Chemists at Football.

A football match was played on Saturday, October 17, between teams from the Metropolitan College of Pharmacy and Westminster College of Pharmacy. The match was won by the Metropolitans by 4 goals to 1.

### Embezzlement.

A young man named Henry Cockshott pleaded guilty at Lancaster last week to embezzling the sum of 2*l.* 4*s.*, the money of Samuel Parker, chemist and mineral-water manufacturer, at Morecambe, on September 14. The prisoner delivered mineral waters, and was empowered to collect money. He had been drinking, and confessed to Mr. Parker that he had misappropriated sums of money paid by two customers. It was stated that his relatives at Keighley were prepared to make good the deficiency, and the prisoner was bound over to come up for judgment if called upon within six months.

### Fires at Chemists' Shops.

"Seeking for an escape of gas with a light" caused a serious explosion, followed by a fire, at 292 Gray's Inn Road, on October 16, on the premises of Mr. W. Davies, chemist. The shop and ground and first floor premises were badly damaged by the explosion and the subsequent fire.

A fire occurred on the premises of Mr. T. McCall White, chemist and druggist, King Street, Wigton, on Saturday last. A neighbouring tradesman observed smoke issuing from the cellar of Mr. White's shop. The fire-brigade were quickly in attendance, and the fire was prevented from spreading. It originated through one of the employes leaving a lighted candle in the cellar.

### Short Time in the Chemical-trade.

The outlook for the coming winter in the towns which depend largely upon employment in the manufacture of chemicals is anything but assuring. The United Alkali Company have commenced short time at many of their works in Widnes, the men now being engaged only five days per week. In Runcorn the dismantling of portions of the manufactories is still being carried on. A hundred men, including fitters, coopers, and labourers, have been discharged from Messrs. Brunner, Mond & Co.'s chemical-works, Winnington, Northwich, which are the largest of the kind in the world. There are between 2,000 and 3,000 men employed on the eight-hour shift system, and a large proportion have received notice of a reduction of one shift per week.

### Mr. Braxton Hicks on the Sale of Laudanum.

Mr. Braxton Hicks held an inquiry at Lambeth, on October 20, respecting the death of Lillie Wadden (28), the wife of a waiter, who died on Sunday morning last. The husband, who was deeply affected, stated that his wife was given to drinking to excess, and took more than was good for her on Saturday. On such occasions she was very excitable, and she had threatened to commit suicide. In the evening she went out shopping, and when she returned at 11 o'clock she held up a small phial, saying "That's poison; I am going to take it." He snatched the bottle out of her hand, and the contents were emptied. His wife went out again, and on her return lay down on the bed. At 7 A.M. he tried to wake her, but she was dead. The son of this witness said he went with his mother to the shop of Mr. Heeley, chemist, 115 Kennington Road, and she sent him in for 2*d.* of laudanum. The chemist said "I cannot serve you." He communicated this to his mother, who said to the chemist, "Why cannot you serve my little boy with 2*d.* worth of laudanum?" He replied, "I can serve you," adding, "What is it for?" His mother answered, "The toothache." She was the worse for drink at the time. This was the laudanum which was thrown away. The deceased then said she was going out to get some fish, and witness again went with her to Mr. Heeley's shop. She told the chemist that she had spilled the other laudanum, and asked to be served with another 2*d.* worth, which was supplied. On her way home she took the cork out of the bottle, and when they got indoors, drank the stuff, saying it would only send her to sleep. Mr. John Heeley, a registered chemist, of 115 Kennington Road, said he remembered a woman coming in for some laudanum. She said, "Don't you sell laudanum?" Witness replied, "Not to children." And she then said she wanted it for toothache. He gave her some in a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -oz. phial, which he properly labelled. He did not recollect her coming in a second time, but she very likely did. He did not notice her condition, as he was sometimes asked for laudanum three or four times in the course of an

hour for cough-mixture. The Coroner: But this is landanum pure and simple. Witness: Yes; they buy it to mix with treacle and other things. Under the Act of Parliament I am allowed to sell landanum providing I label it. The Coroner: Do you think it is sufficient to satisfy common sense in a neighbourhood where people often do take more than is good for them on a Saturday night? Witness: She did not appear to me to be drunk, otherwise I would not have served her. The Coroner: But in selling any poison a chemist should be very careful, and you sell two bottles in one night to the same person. Witness: Some chemists sell 2 oz. at a time. The Coroner: Some people sell a quart. This is not like selling chlorodyne. Witness: Well, I was very busy. The Coroner: Never be busy when selling poison. You will find people will get tired of waiting to be served with it. Dr. E. Roe having stated that death was due to opium-poisoning, the Coroner said it was impossible to lay too great stress on the importance of exercising care in the sale of poisons, especially to women, who were apt to get very excited. He had known a person to go to thirteen chemists, and get a 1d. worth of laudanum at each shop, and then take the lot. That was a matter which could not well be avoided; but here was an instance in which a drunken woman bought poison at the same shop twice in half an hour. Some of the trade journals objected to his interfering with the mode in which chemists conducted their business, but he was protecting the public. Mr. Heeley said he had been in business a great number of years and this was the first time there had been any complaint against him. The jury returned a verdict of suicide during temporary insanity, and expressed it as their opinion that greater care should be exercised in the sale of poisons, especially to women.

#### Bought Poison from Two Chemists.

On Monday the Hull Borough Coroner held an adjourned inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Annie Rogerson, 18 years, residing with her parents at 12 Good's Avenue, Buckingham Street, Hull. The evidence of Mr. Charles H. Broyles, chemist, 219 Holderness Road, and Mr. Lawrence M. Billany, chemist, Holderness Road, went to show that in each case deceased purchased a threepenny packet of vermin-killer, and signed the usual register. The jury returned a verdict of suicide by taking poison, but there was no evidence as to the state of her mind.

#### Early Closing.

Four chemists of Aylesbury advertise in the local papers that they have decided to close their establishments at 2 o'clock on Thursdays, instead of at 4 o'clock as heretofore.

#### The Future of Bovril.

Referring to the purchase of the Bovril Company for £2,000,000, by Mr. E. J. Hooley, *Truth* understands that Mr. Hooley proposes to make an issue of debenture, preference, ordinary, and deferred stock, and gives the figures as follows:—Debentures (carrying 4 per cent. interest), 500,000; preference shares (carrying 5 per cent. interest), 500,000; ordinary shares (carrying 8 per cent. interest), 750,000; and deferred shares, 750,000; the total capitalisation of the new company to amount to 2,500,000. The three first-named issues would absorb 105,000l. per annum at their fixed rate of interest, and as the Bovril Company is stated to have paid last year a profit of 150,000l. net, it will be seen that there would be a considerable surplus for the payment of dividends on the deferred. The success achieved by the Bovril Company in the past is certainly marvellous, and the formation of this new company under somewhat sensational circumstances should tend to give Bovril a fresh gratuitous advertisement of no mean value. *Truth* also bears that Mr. Hooley has made a very large contract with one of the most important retailing firms for the disposal of the product of the new company.

#### Beef-tea—Meat or Extract?

The Holborn Board of Guardians had another animated debate at their meeting on Wednesday as to whether legs and shins of beef or the patented extracts were best for beef-tea for the sick and aged dependent upon them. There were two recommendations of committees: (1) that a chopping-machine be purchased for cutting meat for beef-tea, and (2) that 55 lbs.

of Liebig's extract of beef be ordered for both the City Road workhouse and Highgate infirmary. The Infirmary Committee reported upon the relative costs of making beef-tea from the meat and from the extract—viz., that 230 lbs. of legs and shins of beef, at 5s. per stone, to make 230 pints of beef-tea, would cost 5l.; and that for the same quantity of fluid, with 9 lbs. of meat extract, at 5s. per lb., 5 stone of legs and shins, at 5s. per stone, and 1s. worth of lentils and barley, would only amount to 3l. 11s., thus making an extra cost per day of 1l. 9s. by using meat only. Mr. Howes, J.P., said he still adhered to his original statement that the meat was the better, though it was shown to be the dearer. It had been argued at that Board, when cheap drug-contracts had been sent in, that the reliable drugs (though higher-priced) were best; therefore, he urged that if the poor were to have good drugs, they should also have the best of nourishment. A good deal had been said at that Board as to the superiority of the extract over the beef; but he would like, before the Guardians settled anything, to submit a quart of the liquor from the meat and a quart from the extract to an expert analyst of food to say which was the more nutritious. He said nothing with regard to the relative merits of the patent foods because he did not know; but if big dividends could be paid on the extracts and companies could be floated at millions there must be a large profit. Mr. Miller (Chairman of the Infirmary Committee) said he favoured the meat, but the poor people who had to take the beef-tea liked the extract best, and complained of the beef-tea made from the legs and shins. Mr. Howes: But no doubt the beef-tea made from the meat could be made more palatable with proper care—for instance, if the lentils and barley were added, as is the case with the concoction from the meat-extract. The fact of the matter is that it is easier for the officials to take a pound of the extract to make beef-tea than it is to boil down the meat. Miss Baker said she had had a large experience of beef-tea when visiting the hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and she had recipes of their methods for making beef-tea, and she suggested that the Guardians instruct the Clerk to write round to all the London hospitals inquiring their procedure with regard to the manufacture of "house" beef-tea. She contended that the beef tea was a medicine, and not to be judged by its palatability. Mr. Howes seconded the motion to send round to the hospitals, and wished his colleagues would agree to submit the two kinds of beef-tea (meat and extract) to a food expert. In the result, it was decided to purchase the chopping-machine, and to defer the decision as to method of manufacture of beef-tea until the replies from the hospitals were to hand.

#### A Free Show in Birmingham.

For another week the pharmacists of Birmingham and the district will have the opportunity afforded them of inspecting a very extensive collection of druggists' sundries samples, brought to that city by Messrs. Ayton & Saunders, of Liverpool. This firm have succeeded in obtaining the use of the stock-rooms at the Acorn Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham. These have been admirably fitted up as a showroom, and the assortment of medical glass, perfumery and toilet-articles, showcases, surgical instruments, and, indeed, the thousand and one articles which are used in the business of a chemist, are very effectively displayed. It does not give much of an idea, but it may be mentioned that the weight of the samples brought to Birmingham reaches close upon 4 tons. The experiment has been previously tried at Bradford with success. Messrs. Ayton & Saunders wish it to be understood that they do not press pharmacists to purchase. They simply invite them to visit the show, look round, see the latest improvements in chemists' goods, and leave without ordering a line if they think fit. Pharmacists' assistants are also invited. The rooms are open from 9 A.M. till 8 P.M., but Mr. W. H. Saunders and Mr. H. Atkinson will be in attendance till 11 P.M. by appointment.

SERVANT TO VISITOR: "Yes, the Professor is upstairs in the laboratory conducting some chemical experiments. The Professor expects to go down to posterity."

(From the laboratory): Br-r-r-fiz-bang!

Visitor: "I hope the Professor hasn't gone."



## *Irish News*

*The Editor is obliged to correspondents who send local newspapers containing items of interest to the trade. He will be further obliged if such paragraphs be marked in all cases.*

### Pharmaceutical Examinations.

The following have passed the Pharmaceutical Licence examination:—Messrs. F. Garty, J. A. Deakin, J. Suche, J. J. Cahill, C. S. Tynan, A. Farrington, and A. E. Welsh. Six candidates were rejected.

At an examination for the Licence to act as a Registered Druggist held, by permission of the authorities, at Queen's College, Belfast, the following passed:—Messrs. R. I. Eccles, I. R. Mackey, J. M. McKirrick, D. Walsh, and W. E. Wilson. Two candidates failed to pass.

### The Fatal Thirteen!

Thirteen candidates presented themselves for each of the two recent qualifying examinations—the Pharmaceutical Licence and the Registered Druggist. The superstition got rather a "knock down" in the latter case, only two candidates having failed.

### Fire at a Wholesale Druggists'.

A fire broke out on Saturday afternoon, October 17, in the stores of Messrs. McMaster, Hodgson & Co., wholesale druggists, Henrietta Lane, Dublin. Hundreds of barrels of turpentine were on the premises, and, owing to the inflammable nature of the stock, the outbreak rapidly assumed large proportions. The premises in which the flames originated were gutted, but adjoining stores were saved. The damage (believed to be covered by insurance) amounts to 4,000*l*.

### Query Poison?

The Lisburn Board of Guardians have asked the Local Government Board whether whisky is a medicine or a food.

### Pharmaceutical Chemists' and Apothecaries' Assistants' Association of Ireland.

Mr. Turner has been appointed Hon. Treasurer of this Association for the remainder of the year, in place of Mr. Payne. Mr. Wells, President of the Pharmaceutical Society, has consented to preside at the public meeting of the Association on November 6, when Mr. W. L. Howie will lecture on "Mont Blanc." Ladies are to be invited.

### The L.G.B. and Drug-contracts.

The Local Government Board have informed the Roscommon Guardians that in appointing Mr. Phillips, a local chemist, contractor to the workhouse and the dispensaries, although his tender was the highest received, they pursued a grossly improper course, and that the contract will not be valid. They say, further, that any Guardian authorising payments to him will be personally surcharged. The Guardians are directed to obtain fresh tenders for drugs and medicines, and this they have done, although Mr. Phillips has offered, at the request of the Guardians, to reduce his tender by 10 per cent.

In connection with the supply of drugs and medicines, the Local Government Board have informed the Mountmellick Guardians that they do not regard as satisfactory the explanation of the contractors relative to the result of certain analyses. The decision of the analyst, Sir Charles Cameron, in matters of this kind must be taken as final and conclusive. Commenting on the memorandum from the L.G.B., the Guardians state that the articles complained of were only deteriorated a little by evaporation, and that the contractors had already given an explanation. A copy of the letter was directed to be sent to Messrs. Leslie, the contractors.

### Medicine-contracts.

The Guardians of the Cork Union have accepted the tender of the Cork Chemical and Drug Company for the supply of medicines to the Union.

The Board of Guardians at Kilrush have appointed Dr. Ryan, Tipperary, and Messrs. Fannin & Co. (Limited), Dublin, contractors for drugs and surgical instruments respectively.

Messrs. Grindley & Co., pharmaceutical chemists, Westland Row, Dublin, have been appointed contractors to the Rathmines Township Commissioners.

### Personal.

Dr. Ninian Falkner (the Pharmaceutical Professor of Materia Medica) has been appointed by the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland its Examiner in Materia Medica and Pharmacy for the examinations held in conjunction with the Royal College of Surgeons. Dr. G. F. Duffey, his Excellency's Inspector of the Pharmaceutical Examinations, has been appointed President of the College. Drs. J. W. Moore and H. C. Tweedy, past and present Pharmaceutical Examiners, have also been appointed Examiners to the College.

The Dalkey ratepayers, being evidently satisfied with the one pharmacist—Mr. G. D. Beggs, M.C.P.S.I.—already on the Township Board, have made a "T. C." of another—Mr. W. A. Maxwell, L.P.S.I. Mr. R. K. Clay, the Pharmaceutical Society's solicitor, has been elected Chairman of the Town Commissioners.

Mr. James Horgan, L.P.S.I., lately of English's pharmacy, Mullingar, has been appointed Assistant Dispenser to the Bristol Royal Infirmary.



## *Scotch News*

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### A Chemical Labourer's Claim.

John McDonald, labourer, Glasgow, lately sued the Scottish Oil and Chemical Company (Limited), Glasgow, for 500*l*., as compensation for injuries which he sustained while in the employment of the plaintiffs. He stated that, along with other workmen, he was working at a machine which was used for pressing white-lead in the raw state to dry it, when one of the packages suddenly exploded, and the result had been that he had lost his left eye and his face was disfigured. He said the machine had been previously used for making confections, and that it was unsuited for the work. Defendants denied that the machine had been previously used as alleged, and replied that the accident occurred through the negligence of plaintiff or his fellow-workmen. The plaintiff has now accepted an offer of 70*l*. in full payment of his claim, and the case has been taken out of court.

**QUACKERY IN GERMANY.**—The police recently made a search in a house at Liegnitz, in Germany, and found in a bedroom a boy of ten who for two years had been constantly kept in bed rolled up in furs and other warm garments, while all access of fresh air to the room was carefully prevented. The unfortunate patient had been kept in this condition on the advice of a certain quack, who had, moreover, prevailed upon the boy's parents to give him over one hundred bottles of his nostrum. Taken to the hospital, the boy was medically examined and pronounced to be absolutely free from any organic disease.

## French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

A MEDICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL UNION of Mutual Help Societies exists in Paris, the ninth annual meeting of which was recently held. It is a sort of insurance agency intended for the use of the less wealthy societies. They are united only as regards the medical and pharmaceutical services. Each society pays to the Union 2*fr.* 50*c.* (2*s.*) per annum per member, which guarantees the latter proper care in case of illness. There are 120 doctors attached to the Union, and a proportionate number of pharmacists. Thus each member has a choice of four or five of each in his own quarter. This organisation appears to give general satisfaction to the societies, though it can scarcely pretend to be self-supporting. The revenue last year obtained from the subscriptions of 4,000 members was 10,000*fr.* (400*l.*). As a philanthropic movement, however, it is interesting.

AN ACETYLENE GAS EXPLOSION, terrible in its consequences, occurred last Saturday afternoon at the works of M. Raoul Pictet, manufacturer of acetylene gas, 138 rue Championnet, Paris. The immediate cause of the accident is at present unexplained, but it was a metal container of acetylene gas liquified at very high pressure that exploded. The occurrence took place in a special separate building situated at the back of the works. At the time of the explosion two workmen (Pierre Pantre and Léon Secret) were engaged in examining a number of similar tubes, and the force was so enormous that the wall of the workshop fell in. When the débris had been cleared away, the dead bodies of the two men were found in a terribly mutilated condition. The general effect produced was exactly analogous to that of a dynamite explosion, all the windows in the neighbourhood being blown in, and wreckage of the workshop was found at a considerable distance. M. Pictet's manager is of opinion that one of the men must have been engaged in repairing one of the metal tubes containing gas, and that it exploded through being brought into contact with a flame. This is probably the correct theory, as I recollect being present at a somewhat similar accident some fourteen years ago at Bartlett's Buildings, Holborn Circus, E.C., when an inexperienced workman was engaged in repairing what was supposed to be an empty tube of nitrous-oxide gas. The man neglected to undo the stopper, and on the container being brought into contact with the fire of his forge an explosion took place through the expansion of gas inadvertently left in the container, which cost the workman his life. Shortly after the accident at M. Pictet's works, M. Girard, Director of the Paris Municipal Laboratory, accompanied by other functionaries, arrived on the spot, and proceeded to make the necessary investigations. This is the second explosion of acetylene that has occurred in France lately. There has been a good deal of discussion as to the best way of utilising acetylene. Opinions have differed, some chemists thinking that it should be supplied as a gas, and others, M. Raoul Pictet in particular, favouring the liquid form. There is no doubt that M. Pictet had, by numerous experiments, taken, as he thought, all possible precautions against accident.

DEATH OF M. LUCIEN TRÉCUL.—A few days ago this celebrated botanist and member of the Paris Academy of Sciences died at the Dubois Paying Hospital, where he had been undergoing treatment for several weeks past. He was 78 years of age, having been born at Mondoubleau (Loir and Cher) in 1818. He studied pharmacy in Paris, and became a hospital pharmacist in 1841, his best-known contemporaries being MM. Chatin, a former director of the Paris School of Pharmacy, and Georges Ville, professor of agriculture at the Museum. The latter gentleman is, perhaps, the most distinct contrast to M. Trécul it would be possible to find. About this time Trécul was attracted by the study of botany, and soon afterwards devoted himself entirely to it. Early in 1848 he was asked by the Minister of Agriculture and the Paris Natural History Museum to go to the United States to study the feculent roots used for alimentary purposes by the Indian tribes of North America. He left France early in the same year, and for a long time followed an Indian tribe in its wanderings over the prairies

near the Rocky Mountains. He got together a superb collection of plants and animals. The ship carrying them to France was, however, lost in a storm during her voyage. M. Trécul, not discouraged, recommenced his work. He proceeded to Texas and Mexico, from whence he sent valuable collections to the Paris Museum. Those who knew him say that his character is admirably depicted by the following anecdote: On returning from his mission his first care was to make up a detailed account of his expenses and to proceed to the Ministry of Agriculture, from which he had received a subvention for his expenses. He placed on the desk of the *attaché* who received him a parcel wrapped up in half a newspaper, saying, "The State kindly advanced me the sum of 10,000*fr.* (400*l.*) for my expenses. As you will see by my accounts, there is 2,500*fr.* (100*l.*) over, which I bring back." The *attaché* had never had a similar experience, and endeavoured to explain that the credit was allowed him as an indemnity, &c. The botanist, however, lost his temper, and with a "Do you take me for a thief?" left the office, and the State had to take its money back. About this time Trécul became somewhat of a misanthrope, and for some forty years or more he lived in a small furnished room near the Paris Jardin des Plantes, hovering, as it were, on the scientific world without moving much with it, except by his communications to the Paris Academy of Sciences, of which he became a member in 1836, and by his written works. He rarely spoke at the Academy, but the storm that arose when in 1870-71 he objected to certain of Pasteur's conclusions on the subject of fermentation is still remembered. No one knew how he lived, and he was always miserably dressed. He was a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. Thanks, perhaps, to the unobtrusive kindness of M. Bertrand and some other members of the Academy, he was kept from actual want. Trécul's loss will be lamented by the many *savants* who have appreciated his great scientific knowledge.

## Foreign and Colonial News.

THE NEW QUININE FACTORIES.—The authorities in Java have given permission for the building of the Bandoeng quinine-works. They will be located at Samarang.

MERCK & CO. OF NEW YORK are starting a retail dispensing department at their headquarters there. It is said to be for the purpose of filling prescriptions which the firm receive from all parts of the country.

TO EXPORTERS.—The Macassar People's Pharmacy ("Makassaarsche Volksapotheek") has been founded at Macassar, Dutch East Indies. The capital is 20,000 florins, in 500 florin-shares. The board consists of three Europeans and two Chinese.

OUTPUT OF CHEMICALS IN GERMANY.—According to official statistics the following quantities of minerals and metals were produced in Germany last year:—Bismuth, 1,000 kilos., value 700*mk.*; cadmium, 7,047 kilos., value 39,233*mk.*; antimony, 924 tons, value 294,642*mk.*; arsenic and arsenical compounds, 1,788 tons, value 393,451*mk.*; sulphur, 1,819 tons, value 135,340*mk.*; sulphuric acid, 416,239 tons, value 11,579,483*mk.*; hydrochloric acid, 8,627 tons, value 120,741*mk.*; nitric acid, 1,922 tons, value 555,619*mk.*; muriatic acid, 2,641 tons, value 157,062*mk.*; colouring-earth, 2,059 tons, value 155,451*mk.*

IODINE MANUFACTURE IN JAPAN.—It is well known that enormous quantities of seaweed containing iodine are gathered along the coasts of Japan, and were it not for the fact that the manufacture of iodine from kelp is scarcely profitable in view of the competition of the Chilean product, Japan would no doubt be one of the principal iodine-producing countries. In fact, even under the present circumstances, Japanese iodine and iodides find a market locally, and have even been seen in Europe in commercial quantities. A proposal has now been made to the Japanese Government by certain native chemists that the Customs duty on iodine and iodides in Japan should be increased to such an extent as to enable the Japanese industry to be self-supporting.

THE RUSSIAN DRUG-TRADE.—With reference to our recent note in this column, pointing to the possible abolition

of, or considerable reduction in, Customs duties on drugs and chemicals imported into Russia, the following table, taken from the official Russian Customs statistics, will be of interest as showing the imports of the principal drugs and chemicals into the Empire of the Czar during 1894 and 1895:—

	Quantities in Thousands of Poods		Value in Thou- sands of Roubles	
	1894	1895	1894	1895
Benzoic acid and camphor ..	44	33	422	308
Gums and gum-resins, unenumerated ..	351	341	7,739	7,770
Chemicals and druggists' goods ..	5,740.3	5,433.3	13,042	12,430
Including: Sulphur ..	1,343	1,192	953	582
<i>Braz</i> ..	54	65	70	47
<i>Sol ammoniac and am- monia</i> ..	63	94	226	282
Chlorides of magnesium and sodium and Epsom salts ..	204	235	186	195
Bleaching-powder ..	444	399	908	794
Caustic soda and potash ..	436	394	1,051	939
Bicarbonate of soda and potash ..	81	80	230	227
Other salts of soda and potash ..	305	333	457	542
Sulphuric acid ..	39	19	67	28
Nitric and hydrochloric acids ..	107	83	459	354
Stassfurt salts ..	317	273	141	103
Nitrate of soda ..	860	752	891	624
Glauber salts ..	222	195	244	200
Fatty vegetable oils ..	751	722	5,773	5,648
Cocoa and palm oils ..	200	192	942	804
Essential oils ..	4.1	4.0	454	459
Cosmetics ..	11.3	13.2	792	831
Dyes and colours ..	4,057.8	3,907.1	14,738	16,153
Vegetable pigments ..	2,777	2,551	2,697	2,535
Colouring-earth ..	349	374	534	537

**THE AMERICAN WHOLESALE DRUGGISTS' ANNUAL CONVENTION.**—The twenty-second annual Convention of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association of the United States opened at Philadelphia on October 6. Prior to the meeting the proprietary committee of the Association met to hear an important paper by Mr. Mahlon N. Kline, of Philadelphia, chairman of the committee. The paper dealt chiefly with cutting, and expressed the opinion that events had shown that those who defy the terms fixed by the manufacturers for their articles cannot successfully continue their former practice of cutting in defiance of the conditions made by proprietors. In a suit brought by one of the cutters against the Association the Judge decided that each manufacturer had a right to agree upon a fixed price. President J. C. Eliel was in the chair when the roll of the Convention was called. In his annual address the President referred to the rebate system in selling proprietary medicines, and to several other subjects which were treated in Mr. Kline's paper. The officers and delegates were treated to a surprise by being served with notices as parties defendant to a suit entered in the Common Pleas Court at New York, by the John D Park & Sons Company, of Cincinnati, which was the firm referred to by Mr. Kline in his paper. The bill filed by the plaintiffs contends that the members of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association comprise 93 per cent. of all the wholesale and jobbing druggists in the United States; and that each member has fixed upon his proprietary goods prices at which the same should be sold throughout the United States to the various retail drug-dealers, in accordance with a uniform scale adopted by the Association. The plaintiffs ask that a preliminary injunction be issued, restraining "each and all of the said Association, and each and all of the members of the said committee on proprietary goods of said Association, from carrying out or enforcing any of the aforesaid unlawful contracts." The bill was filed at New York by the complainants, it is said, for the purpose of securing the attendance at the court of the delegates to the Convention. At the second session the time was occupied principally by the reading of reports of committees, among which was that of the committee on drug-markets. It referred regretfully to the fact that the "long-looked-for boom" in the drug-markets has not yet made itself felt, and that this autumn there have been an unusual number of failures in the American drug-trade. Immediately after the conclusion of the first day's work of the Druggists' Association, President R. E. Queen, of San Francisco, called the first meeting of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Asso-

ciation (which always meet at the same time and place as the National Wholesale Druggists' Association), and extended greetings to the drug-men. President Eliel responded for the druggists. Thomas Lord, of San Francisco, presented the report of the committee on transportation, which expressed great dissatisfaction with freight-rates and the terms of freight-carrying contracts with regard to medicines in bottles. It recommended that a large representation of the members should appear at the coming meeting of the Freight-classification Committee, to be held at St. Louis in November, to urge changes in the existing conditions. A committee of three will be appointed to arrange for the carrying out of this suggestion.

## Australasian News.

THE following notes are mainly based upon information contained in the September issue of *The Chemist and Druggist of Australasia*, published at Melbourne. Copies of that paper (price 6d. each) and information concerning it may be had upon application to the Publisher, C. & D. of Australasia, 42 Cannon Street, E.C.

**BRITISH PHARMACISTS IN N.S. WALES.**—At the August meeting of the N.S.W. Board of Pharmacy, Mr. W. Burgin, a pharmaceutical chemist of Great Britain, was granted registration in the colony. He produced his diploma and made the necessary statutory declaration that it was his *bona-fide* property. Mr. Frederick Bernard Scales, of Canterbury (N.S.W.), asked to be registered on the ground that he was in business in Fetter Lane, London, prior to the passing of the Poisons Act in New South Wales, and that during his many years' residence in Sydney he has been employed by some of the best known chemists. The Board, however, refused this application.

**THE NEW ZEALAND TRAVELLERS' TAX.**—Mr. J. A. Williams, representing Francis Forrest & Co., of Melbourne, who recently returned to Sydney after a six months' tour of New Zealand, says that he had no trouble about the 50% poll tax on commercial travellers, once he had paid the amount and taken out his licence at Dunedin. "The Customs officers throughout appeared to know that I had paid my footing, and I was never once asked to produce my licence" he said. Asked his opinion as to the general effect of the tax, Mr. Williams stated that no "bagman" can successfully evade the penalty, and for every day that business is transacted without the licence, the offender is liable to a penalty of 20%. The document is not transferable, and must be used only by the person to whom it is issued on behalf of his principal or principals. If a firm sends a second traveller, an additional 50% must be paid.

**PHARMACISTS AS ANALYSTS OF ARTIFICIAL MANURES.**—The Bill to Regulate the Sale of Manures has been introduced in the Legislative Assembly of Victoria by Mr. Madden and Mr. Austin. The Bill requires that whenever any artificial manure is sold, a certificate shall be given as to its percentage contents of the principal manurial compounds, nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash; that any purchaser may have the manure analysed by an official analyst on payment of one guinea; and that, when the manure is found to contain less of these ingredients than certified, to the extent of 2 per cent. of the whole sample as to nitrogen or potash, and 4 per cent. as to phosphoric acid, the vendor shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding 10% for the first offence and 50% for the second offence. The measure also provides that the Governor-in-Council may appoint official analysts for the purposes of the Act and that such analysts shall be either registered pharmaceutical chemists or qualified medical practitioners.

**ADVERTISEMENTS** of Tarrant's seltzer aperient are painted on the rocks along the New York and New Hampshire Railway. For many miles from the starting-point they read "Tarrant's Seltzer Aperient Aids Indigestion." At South Norwalk the painter appears to have become aware that there was something wrong about the announcement, for beyond that station the legend is, "Aids Digestion."

## More Protected Proprietary Medicines.

THE Proprietary Articles Trade Association have issued a new and extended list of articles which the proprietors have agreed to insist shall be sold to the public at a minimum retail price. The full list as it now appears is printed below. The makers of these goods will supply them to no houses who do not sign the following agreement:—

I undertake not to sell any of the goods named below under the stated minimum prices.

I agree to withhold supplies of all the undermentioned goods from any firm named by the Secretary of the Proprietary Articles Trade Association as selling any of them below the stated prices or in any way attempting to injure the sales of them.

I understand that no wholesale buyer will be supplied with any of these goods who does not sign and maintain this agreement.

"The same matter appears in the form of a column advertisement in the *Southampton Times*, the *Bournemouth Guardian*, the *Woolwich Gazette*, the *Poole Guardian*, the *Kentish Mail*, the *Southern Guardian*, the *Paddington Mercury*, the *Swanage Guardian*, the *Queen's Park Advertiser*, the *Wimborne Guardian*, the *West Ham Guardian*, and, in a modified form, in the *Norwood News* and the *Streatham News*. We are arranging with several other important newspapers for its appearance in column form. We also enclose copies of a label which we intend to attach, in whole or in part, to all articles which are controlled by the ring, and which we may hereafter sell.

"In doing this we think it right to explain that we feel strongly that such a combination as the P.A.T.A. ought to be opposed by all who value freedom of trade, and who appreciate rightly the benefits which it has conferred upon the community. Nor do we think that the supposed interests of a comparatively few traders are sufficient to warrant us in sacrificing the interests of the public or our own liberty. Those who are interested in this particular form

Size or Advertised Price	Name of Article	Minimum Wholesale Price	Minimum Retail Price
1s. 1½d. 2s. 9d.	Barclays—Dr. Bateman's Drops .. ..	10s. 6d. 25s.	1s. 1½d. 2s. 9d.
1s. 1½d. 2s. 9d.	Beecham's Anodyne Lotion .. ..	9s. 6d. 24s.	1s. 2s. 6d.
2s. 6d. 4s. 6d.	" Capillary Fluid and Hair Grower ..	20s. 6d. 38s. 6d.	2s. 3d. 4s.
1s. 1½d. 2s. 9d.	" Corn Plaster .. ..	9s. 6d. 24s.	1s. 2s. 6d.
1s. 1½d. 2s. 9d.	" Glycerine and Cucumber .. ..	8s. 6d. 15s. 20s. 6d. 38s. 6d.	10½d. 1s. 7d. 2s. 3d. 4s.
1s. 1½d. 2s. 9d.	" Indel. Extract .. ..	27s.	2s. 9d.
1s. 1½d. 2s. 9d.	" Soft Corn Cure .. ..	9s. 6d.	1s.
1s. 6d.	Condal Water .. ..	13s. 6d.	1s. 6d.
2s. 9d. 4s. 6d.	Davis's Calorific .. ..	27s. 43s.	2s. 9d. 4s. 6d.
1s. 6d.	" Shields .. ..	14s. 6d.	1s. 6d.
1s. 1½d. 2s. 9d.	Diceys—Dr. Bateman's Drops .. ..	10s. 6d. 25s.	1s. 1½d. 2s. 9d.
2s. 2s. 9d.	" Daify's Elixir .. ..	18s. 25s.	2s. 2s. 9d.
1s. 1½d. 2s. 9d.	Dredge's Heal-all .. ..	10s. 6d. 25s.	1s. 1½d. 2s. 9d.
7½d.	Frog in your Throat .. ..	1 doz. 6 doz. 1 gross.	7½d.
1s. 2s. 5s. 10s.	Gell's Foot Rot Ointment .. ..	5s. 6d. 31s. 60s.	1s. 2s. 5s. 10s.
3s. 6d. 2s.	Hall's Coca Wine .. ..	7s. 9d. 15s. 6d. 38s. 9d. 77s. 6d.	3s. 1s. 9d.
1s. 3d. 2s.	Invalid Bovril .. ..	27s. 15s. 6d.	1s. 3d. 2s.
1s. 1½d. 2s. 9d.	Mrs. Johnson's American Soothing Syrup	11s. 19s.	1s. 1½d. 2s. 9d.
1s. 1½d. 2s. 9d.	Lambert's Balsam .. ..	10s. 6d. 25s.	1s. 1½d. 2s. 9d.
1s. 1½d. 2s. 9d. 4s. 6d.	Lascelles' Pills .. ..	10s. 27s.	1s. 2s. 9d.
5s. 6d. 2s. 3d.	Liebig's Extract of Meat and Malt Wine (Key-stone Brand) .. ..	9s. 6d. 24s. 39s.	1s. 2s. 9d. 4s. 6d.
2s. 3d. 4s.	Müller's New Hydroxyl-free Cod-liver Oil ..	30s. 17s.	3s. 3d. 2s.
1s. 1s. 9d. 3s. 3d.	Peptarnis (Liebig Company's Peptone of Beef)	13s. 6d. 36s.	1s. 1½d. 3s. 8d.
1s. 1½d. 2s. 3d. 4s. 6d. 11s.	Powell's Balsam of Anised.. ..	{ 9s. 6d. 17s. 33s. }	1s. 1s. 9d. 3s. 3d.
1s. 1½d. 2s. 3d.	" Mild Aperient Pills .. ..	10s. 6d. 21s. 42s. 165s.	1s. 1½d. 2s. 3d.
1s. 1½d. 2s. 9d.	Dr. Scott's Bilious and Liver Pills .. ..	10s. 6d. 21s.	1s. 1½d. 2s. 3d.
1s. 1½d. 1s. 6d. 2s. 9d.	Smedley's Chilliie Paste .. ..	10s. 24s.	1s. 1s. 6d. 2s. 9d.
1s. 2s. 6d.	Zox .. ..	9s. 6d. 12s. 9d. 24s.	1s. 2s. 6d.
2d.	" Loose .. ..	9s. 24s.	1s. 2s. 6d.
1s. 1½d. 2s. 3s. 6d.	" Plasters .. ..	12s. per gross	2d. each
	" Tonic .. ..	10s. 6d.	1s. 1½d.
		10s. 6d. 18s. 33s.	1s. 1½d. 2s. 3s. 6d.

### OPPOSING THE P.A.T.A.

The following circular has been sent to proprietors and wholesale dealers by Day's Southern Drug Company (Limited), Southampton:—

"St. Laurence Road,  
"Southampton Docks.  
"October 12, 1896.

"Messrs. —

"GENTLEMEN,

"The Proprietary Articles Trade Association.

"During the present keen controversy between free-trade and protection, as applied to the sale of proprietary articles, we venture to think that you may be interested to hear what we, as large dealers in such articles, may wish to say upon the subject, and to note the enclosures which we send herewith.

"On the 1st ult. we sent you a circular respecting the above Association, in which we informed you that we had no sympathy with its objects, and that we hoped it would not be successful in its mission. We have now thought it necessary to go further, and to appeal to the public to assist us in fighting this ring. We beg to enclose herewith copies of some matter which we have issued with this object. The enclosed circular will be handed to our customers (of whom we have on an average over fifty thousand per week).

of compulsion may consider that they are justified in supporting it, but we think that if they will take a wider view of the subject, they will see that such a system of compulsion may easily be so extended as to work great mischief to every member of the community. Should this ring be successful, it would offer an object-lesson which might rapidly take effect in a manner and to an extent which would appal even those who most warmly support it in its present form. The cry for protection generally means:—'Let my goods be protected, let me fleece the public but let no one fleece me; my ring is good; everyone else's is bad.' Can any one doubt that if this ring succeeds, rings will spring up on all hands, affecting every kind of produce? Why should they not? Chemists are not the only people who like to secure big profits, and when every necessary of life is strictly 'protected,' even chemists may regret that they gave a helping hand to such a pernicious system. We think that the public should take this matter up vigorously, and it will not be our fault if they do not do so.

"But apart from questions of public policy and the general good of the community, there are reasons why manufacturers should fight shy of this organisation. Why should they cripple the sale of their products for the benefit of those who have hitherto discouraged their sale by every means in their power, and who, if they get less than 50 per cent. profit, may soon cease to feel any interest in selling them, and at most will take, as they say, only a 10, 15, or 20 per cent. interest, as the case may be? Companies and

other large cash-price traders have, by their willingness to stock and sell proprietary articles, and by the reasonable prices which they charge, contributed largely to build up this trade, and are still willing to continue to assist manufacturers to place their goods in the hands of the public. Why then should manufacturers wish to throw them over in favour of small chemists, who do not disguise their contempt for advertised nostrums, and who have abundant leisure to recommend their own?

"The only reason given why manufacturers should hamper themselves with these troublesome restrictions is that it would prevent or diminish substitution! We contend that it would vastly increase the 'Prescribing-chemist's' opportunities, of which he would not be slow to avail himself. On behalf of chemists, it is often contended that the continued existence of their system of business largely depends upon the 'personal element,' and no doubt their personal acquaintance with their customers leads the latter to place some confidence in what is recommended by the former. What is the 'Prescribing-chemist' likely to recommend but something 'the composition of which he knows,' that is, something put up by himself, either there and then, or which he has ready for the purpose? Will he not—does he not—habitually dissuade customers from purchasing some 'secret remedy' which he declares that he cannot recommend, on account of his ignorance of its composition?

"As regards our own business, frequent changes in the staff at our several shops are rendered necessary by the rapid extension of our business, and from other causes, and the 'personal element' is, consequently, to a large extent lacking. Moreover, we discourage our chemists from prescribing, as it interferes with business too much. With respect to goods which are prepared by ourselves, the rush of business is often so great as to render it impossible to even mention them, much less to spend much time in recommending them, or in making up a 'little mixture' to suit the particular case. Chemists' opportunities are far greater, and, as many of them admit, nothing would induce them to sell someone else's nostrum, upon which they might get 15 to 20 per cent. profit, in preference to a medicine which they prepare themselves, and on the cost of which they may get 200 to 300 per cent. or more. How anyone who really knows anything of chemists and their usual mode of doing business, can suppose that substitution will be reduced by getting them to deal more largely in proprietary articles passes our comprehension!

"We should also like to point out that raising the price of such articles to the public offers a direct incentive to the practice of substitution. The public very naturally grumble at the increased price, which at once gives the opening for suggesting something else at a lower price. A customer who has for many years paid 9½d. for an article is often indignant when 1s or 1½s. is demanded, and, after satisfying himself that it cannot be bought at a lower price, will willingly take some other well-known article, the price of which has not been raised, or, if something of the vendor's own manufacture be introduced, will regard it with a favourable eye, whereas, but for the advance in price, he would not have looked at either. Generally, when the price of an article which people have been accustomed to buy for years at a certain price is advanced, they either think that the assistant is taking advantage of them, or, if that is proved not to be the case, that the cash-price chemist, having now made a good business, is increasing his prices in order to pocket a larger profit.

"We should like to relate, as an illustration of the above statement, a circumstance which actually occurred within the last few weeks. A customer at one of our shops was asked one penny more than she 'had paid for years' for an article which had recently been raised by the manufacturer. She refused to be satisfied with the assistant's explanation, and demanded to see the manager of the particular shop, who politely told her, as the assistant had done, that the makers had raised the price. But nothing would convince her that this was anything but an excuse for making a larger profit. Determined to follow up the matter she made a long and unpleasant journey to our head office, and refused to see anyone less than a director of the company. We spent a long time explaining the matter, and actually produced invoices in order to satisfy her that the makers had really raised the price. Every customer is not so suspicious, but

then we do not get the same opportunity of full explanation, and a thousand customers would feel dissatisfied where one would make and follow up a complaint.

"And this brings us to an important point. We are bound to take such means as are in our power to bring home to our customers the true explanation of a rise in the price of any article of comparatively fixed intrinsic value. We know of no surer means of doing this than affixing such explanation to the packages themselves. In future, therefore, we intend to affix an explanatory label to the packages of any such proprietary article the price of which has been raised in order that our customers may understand that the makers, and not we, are responsible for the advance in price.

"That an advance in price does tend to diminish the sales of such articles we have no doubt, and we speak after having had more than twenty years' experience of a somewhat extended character. Besides the daily experience of our whole staff in dealing with customers, we could point out a number of proprietary articles which now have, and have had for many years, enormous and continually increasing sales, upon the retail prices of which no reduction now is or ever has been placed, and which are often severely 'cut.' The natural—and, apparently, only—effect of this seems to be to increase the public demand for them. And we could mention others the retail prices of which have been raised, and the demand for which, judging from both observation and experience, has a directly contrary tendency.

"We trust that you are not disposed to look favourably on any of these schemes for driving the patent-medicine trade into the hands of the old-fashioned chemists or altogether out of the market; that our relations with you will be as cordial as they have always been; and that our trade with you will continue to increase.

"We are, Gentlemen, yours truly.

"DAY'S SOUTHERN DRUG COMPANY (LIMITED)

(Signed) "WILLIAM DAY.

"Managing Director."

## Business Changes.

*Notices of changes in the retail trade, and opening of new businesses, are inserted in this section, free of charge, if properly authenticated.*

MR. C. B. BELL, JUNR, drug-broker, has opened an office at 41 High Street, Hull.

MR ELLIOTT, chemist and druggist, has opened drug-stores at 59 High Street, Evesham.

A WELL-FITTED-UP medical hall has been opened by Dr. J. V. Byrne at Laurence Street, Drogheda.

MR. JOHN L. GAMMIE has purchased the old-established business of the late Mr. J. W. Stephen, Duff Street, Macduff, N.B.

THE business carried on at 48 High Street, Tunbridge Wells, under the style of the Kent Drug Stores, has been acquired by Mr. H. S. Pearmund, pharmaceutical chemist.

THE business of Mr. F. Baker, chemist, Harnet Street, Sandwich, Kent, has been transferred to Mr. T. Read in consequence of the continued illness of Mr. Baker. The business was established in 1816 by Mrs. Baker's father, Mr. Knoles, and Mr. Baker, who is an alderman of the borough, has carried it on for the past thirty-five years.

**A PERUVIAN OPIUM-MONOPOLY.**—Peru imports a considerable quantity of opium, of which the bulk is used by the Chinese labourers in that country. Up to 1895 the importation of opium was the monopoly of a company, but in January of last year the trade was declared free to everyone upon payment of a Customs duty of 15 soles per kilo. Three months afterwards, however, the monopoly was re-established, with the condition that the company holding the sole right of importation should buy up the opium imported in the meantime by other firms and pay them 5 per cent. profit on it. The imports of opium into Peru run from thirteen tons in bad years to 32 tons in good.

## The Winter Session.

### THE MIDLAND CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting held on Wednesday, October 14, Mr. H. Jessop presiding, donations were acknowledged from Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., James Woolley, Sors & Co., the Apollinaris Company, and Goodall, Backhouse & Co.

The paper of the evening was by Mr. R. D. GIBBS, ex-President of the Midland Pharmaceutical Association, and was entitled

#### HOW TO ARRIVE AT DISPENSING CHARGES.

Mr. GIBBS first explained that he was not actually engaged in dispensing. He would examine the subject from three distinct systems of charges—(1) the medical, (2) the pharmaceutical, and (3) the general.

(1) The medical, based upon "ability to pay." This is not confined to medicine. There are others who can take this privilege—viz., the tax gatherer who taxes your income, and the water-company who charges you for water, not upon what you consume, but upon the value of the house. The medical man can lay law—which is the most important consideration—recover twice as much from B as from A and three times as much from C, depending upon the value of the house A, B, or C lives in. This system cannot be applied to dispensing. Medical fees grew up in an age of privilege, or I question (said the author) whether this system would have developed. It is based upon what I consider an erroneous idea that all the members of the profession are of equal skill, and have an equal right to fees which custom established and law recognised. If I were addressing medical students, I should warn them that sooner or later medical fees will conform to economic principles.

(2) The system of charges, familiar in dispensing, based on "dose." I regret that I am unable to present this method hacked by reasons that would commend it. That there were reasons, and at the time very good ones, for basing the price of physic on the dose, I have not the least doubt. But I have never been fortunate enough to meet anyone who could defend to his own satisfaction the basing of the price on dose, and yet it exists. Was it that in earlier times, when the art and mysteries of physic were more profound, when physic was sold at per draught, when medicine-bottles as we know them were not in existence, that it was considered best to charge for "services rendered" at a price per dose? It is open for anyone to say that dispensing charges are not based upon dose, that an examination of a dispensing-list discloses every possible variation, and that nowhere does it say "charge at per dose." Therefore, you are compelled to read between the lines. Well, whatever it is based on, it is not materials, for they are not mentioned, and the only other thing is labour, and that is not charged for, because if a mixture varies in the dose the price becomes altered, while the dose being constant, variation in the labour does not effect it. Lastly, if the price of a given number of doses is divided by that number, the result is fairly constant, so I am justified in saying that the dispensing-list, based on dose, is getting into its second childhood and somewhat tottering.

On what ground is a patient called upon to pay a price per dose regardless of the materials used or the services rendered? What position can a pharmacist claim to hold that he has a right to the pocket of another? It seems to me you can hardly expect a development, to use no stronger term, so long as you leave these items out of consideration. Then see what you lay yourselves open to in the way of criticism—letters in the daily press, which no one satisfactorily answers. A writes to say he took a prescription containing bicarbonate of soda and inf. gentian and was charged 1s. 9d.; he reckons the ingredients were worth 2d. B writes to say he was charged 9d., 1s., and 1s. 6d. for the same mixture, and so on. Well, you need not be afraid of criticism so long as you can knock the wind out of your opponent; but it is difficult to explain why a simple mixture that anyone with a few weeks of experience could take in hand should be an equal price with one requiring skill, or should be four times the price of a box of pills which require

ability, special apparatus, and four times the labour to produce. It reminds you that at certain shops if you buy a 30s. suit of clothes you are presented with a gold watch, and it appears to me that the pills stand in the same relation, the disadvantage being, apart from the confusion, that you are liable to be called up in the night for the gold watch.

You see I am not a defender of the dose-system, and I say in the interest of my craft you will do well to shake it off. It pleases no one and it leaves a poor result.

(3) When a man makes up his mind to construct, it does not much matter what, it is usual, though by no means necessary, to look upon the cost as being, broadly, materials and labour. But he has no sooner entered upon his work than he finds it difficult to know which is which. For instance, his material may be in London or anywhere, except "on the ground," and there is carriage. Does that go on to labour or materials? As a costs-clerk you would be expected to know; but what I want you to notice is that cost of material is almost entirely labour. Things that you buy for your business you call raw material, and your construction finished goods, but your raw material was the finished goods of the previous maker; and so it works back to the material Nature provided, or it works on by successions of labour until it disappears by what is called consumption or its lifetime.

Besides carriage, many other costs have to be considered. Materials have to be checked by measuring, counting, or weighing, with the use of apparatus; and if immediate use cannot be made of the material ware-room (rent) must be found. Then comes time. Having bought materials you are poorer by the money you have spent, and richer by the materials you have got; but materials are of no value except in use, and if you cannot use them at once you are losing the use of your money. All these are costs that you might have left out of your calculation. You have next the cost of direct labour. In the larger industrial world services are mostly calculated at a price per hour. Suppose now our construction, due to the ability and energy of all employed, have come to an end, time again comes in; neither materials nor labour lend any return until used, and the rewards of industry for the constructors can only come in when the finished work changes hands, or hears interest, by being lent or rented. Now let us see where it comes in. Is a thing worth what it costs to produce? No; it is only worth what a person will give for it, and that may involve a big gain or a big loss. It has been said a thing is worth what it can be replaced by; but that is not true, for if a person will only give you a portion of its costs, replacing will not create its worth.

The value of a finished article follows an economic law, and is in inverse ratio to supply and direct ratio to demand. If, therefore, the value of your production is determined equally by demand or need, how comes it that things are mostly quoted on a cost basis, and what is the use of determining cost when need claims the price? The answer is found in the above law—viz., "difficulties in supply." These grow smaller, however, year by year, and goods capable of transport keep well in advance. Your "need" would pay higher prices, but "supply" keeps it down; but when the need is small, and the price in consequence so low as not to pay its way, production ceases and the equilibrium is restored. But how can you tell whether it "pays its way" unless you determine cost? That is why prices appear to be based on cost. There are some things, such as land and buildings, the "difficulties of supply" of which are insuperable here; "need" has an innings, and pays up. Cost does not come in at all, so it looks as if cost was only necessary to prevent reckless trading and to see how near the wind you can sail.

I trust I have succeeded in showing that price generally depends upon economic laws, and is determined by the "urgency of need" and "difficulties of supply," and you will recognise that if business is to result these opposites must come together. There are, however, a number of disturbing elements which are mostly psychological. Why do you pay Messrs. Black more than Messrs. White? Is it because you hold that Messrs. Black is a more respectable house, or that you fancy their goods are better, or because they are such civil people? You go into the best, otherwise dearest, hotel if you can afford it. Habit and routine play an important,

if limited, part in the affairs of life, and you will notice they are quite outside of cost.

Now to apply this to dispensing charges. You hear it stated there should be uniformity in dispensing charges. I say impossible, unless the capacity of want is equal, which it is not; or the capacity to supply equal also, which it is not. A pharmacist, like any other man, if he is to do business, must be able to calculate the cost, not because he can base his price upon it, but that he can refuse unprofitable business. I fancy you say, "Who ever heard of a pharmacist having business to refuse?" And there is no getting rid of the fact that the bulk of the dispensing does not come anywhere near the pharmacist. How far do your charges drive it away? How far do you adapt yourselves to the public want? I hear many grumbles of not getting a proper share of the dispensing. Is dispensing a plum? Have you forgotten that the man who pays usually calls the time?

Let us get to something practical. I find my chemist friends like something concrete. They forget that that is the easiest way to expose themselves to conflict. Once accept a principle, and there are many ways of putting it into practice. However, I will go over the subject. I have seen a dispensing-list for 1890—a West-end list, I believe. It would, therefore, express the highest figures now reached for the art of dispensing. It is based upon dose, and, therefore, it falls under my criticism. I find no fault with what might be called its cheapness or its dearness; that has nothing to do with anyone outside those who buy and those who sell. But I suggest that such a list would be better if service rendered was taken into consideration. This would materially affect, not the total, which I consider too low already, but the components. It would tend to make simple mixtures cheaper, complicated ones dearer. In arriving at such prices the proper guide should be the amount of time an average qualified dispenser would take to produce, *plus* special material having to be obtained, *plus* special tools, *plus* value of materials consumed. No attempt should be made to fix a general price for a finished production; the public requirement will not admit of it. The public have a right to determine for themselves whether they will pay a price which will guarantee to them the highest quality of labour and highest value of materials.

The value of dispensing time ought not to be difficult to fix. It is composed of the usual capitalised elements of a business which stand in regular relationship, such as rent and rates, which are in direct ratio to the position for doing business, wages calculated upon capacity, stock proportioned to turn over. This dispensing time would work out very regularly. There would be nothing to prevent pharmacists deciding or agreeing generally upon this value.

It would appear as if I were allowing the seller the right to determine his price, but really this is not so. The general total of these charges has been fixed by a gradual process of adjustment extending over many years, and are more or less suited to the public requirement and the needs of the seller in the place where they are made. But this only shows us what is and what might be. If a man attempts business in neighbourhoods where there is a poorer population (and all cannot live in the West-end) his prices must fall to the level of the capacity to pay of his would-be customers. What that capacity is every business-man has to find out, and this does not necessarily mean less income; he probably pays less rent. He is surrounded by a denser population, the quality of his labour may be lower, and the finish of his product less.

Some discussion followed the reading of this paper, and it was agreed that the subject should come forward again after members had had an opportunity of giving the arguments careful consideration.

#### MIDLAND PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

##### PROGRAMME OF SESSION 1896-97.

1896.

Nov. 3.—President's Address and *Conversazione* at Grand Hotel, 8.

" 10.—Paper by Mr. J. Barclay, B.Sc., at Mason College, at 8.30.

" 24.—Discussion on Trade Subjects.

Dec. 8.—Lecture on "Vegetable Histology," illustrated by lantern-slides, by Mr. P. H. Alcock, F.I.C., at Mason College, at 8.30.

1897.

Jan. 12.—Paper by Mr. Liverseege, on the "Report of the Select Parliamentary Committee on the Adulteration of Drugs," at Mason College, at 8.30.

" —Annual Ball, date not fixed.

Feb. 9.—Paper by Dr. Thomas Wilson, at Mason College, at 8.30.

Mar. 9.—Particulars to be announced.

" 16.—Smoking-concert.

Apr. 13.—Remarks on the "Glacial Chemical Phenomena of Iceland," illustrated by lantern-slides, by Mr. F. W. W. Howell, F.R.G.S., at Mason College, at 8.30.

May —Annual Meeting and Election of Council, at Mason College.

" —Annual Supper.

The Council invite the attendance of any chemist and of ladies at the opening meeting on November 3. Tickets can be obtained from Mr. Mackenzie, 71 Parade, Birmingham.

#### BRIGHTON JUNIOR ASSOCIATION OF PHARMACY.

"SHORT papers by members" was the programme at the meeting of this Association on October 14. The President was in the chair. One paper was by Mr. A. H. CUPIT, on

##### THE LEECH.

Mr. Cupit said the natural order of the leech is Sanguisuga, and consists of several families. Those in which chemists are particularly interested belong to Gnathobdellidae, which signifies a dental apparatus composed of armed muscular ridges. Two varieties are allowed by the Pharmacopoeia, medicinalis and officinalis. They are separately described. The animal is furnished with two suckers, one at the head, which is used for drawing sustenance from its victim, and a larger one at the tail, which it uses for the purpose of adhesion. Its mouth is set with three semicircular jaws, each provided with extremely sharp incisors with which it pierces the skin, and, having made an incision, it draws blood by contracting and elongating a long and very powerful alimentary canal. The operation is quite painless, and the amount of blood drawn by each leech is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  dr. Its stomach is composed of twenty-four cells divided by membrane. In these cells the blood is stored for several months without coagulating, and after taking its fill it sinks to the bottom of the pond or marsh which is its natural home, and does not rise for another meal for twelve or eighteen months. It is a strange fact that the leech seldom survives his first fill of human blood. The natural food of the leech is the blood of frogs, lizards, fish, &c. In a natural state leeches will live for twenty-five years, but in an aquarium about six years. Leeches are mentioned by Greek and Roman authors, Herodotus, Theocritus, Nicander, Cicero, Horace, Pliny, and others. Galen recommended their use. The use of the leech is declining very rapidly, although it has outlasted most of the old-fashioned implements of blood-letting. In 1853 over 27,000*l.* was spent in this country on imported leeches. That amount had by 1869 decreased to 7,000*l.* When the leech was in general use Messrs. Fitch & Nottingham (to whom Mr. Cupit was indebted for beautiful specimens which he exhibited) state that they sold 50,000 weekly: now their yearly average is about half a million. In 1844 Messrs. Duncan & Flockhart's account for leeches supplied to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary was 45*l.*; in 1888 for a similar period the amount was 5*s.* 6*d.* only. There are, however, still many firm believers in the efficacy of the leech in cases of acute inflammation.

A second paper was by Mr. STANLEY KENT on

##### SOAP.

Soap was first manufactured in London in 1524, and at this period there were two kinds only, one being of a greyish hne speckled with white, the other black, the grey being considered the best of the two. It was sold at 1*d.* per lb., the black being much cheaper. It was not until 1813, when M. Chevreul published his investigations, that the chemical composition of soap was discussed. This and an account of the manufacture formed the greater part of Mr. Kent's paper.

Mr. A. T. Jeeves, President of this Association, wishes to vigorously repudiate our last week's report of his remarks wherein he was made to say that he hoped the Association would use their utmost efforts to resist the encroachments of company pharmacy. Mr. Jeeves states that this sentiment has not one atom of foundation either in the words he used or in his real opinion on the subject. He considers that would not be a proper object of the Association.

## Legal Reports.

### THE PHARMACY ACT.

#### JUDGE WADDY ON THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.

ON August 19 Judge Waddy had before him, at the Sheffield County Court, a case in which the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain sought to recover from Messrs. Burgon, wholesale grocers, of Sheffield, two penalties of 5*l.* each for selling morphine contained in Teasdale's chlorodyne contrary to the provisions of the Pharmacy Act, 1868.

His Honour, in giving judgment for the Society, expressed the opinion that Messrs. Burgon had acted through inadvertence, and, though technically guilty of an offence, it was with sorrow and regret that he decided against them. On the question of costs, he declined to award these until the Pharmaceutical Council had met and said whether they would press for these.

On October 15 Mr. Neal, solicitor for Messrs. Burgon, applied to the Judge for a decision on the point. There was no appearance on the part of the Society. Mr. Neal said: Your Honour may recollect being appealed to to give judgment for certain penalties in this matter. As you then expressed some reluctance to award costs, Mr. Vaughan Williams, who appeared for the Society, said that under the statute there was no discretion left with the Court. I said the Court had ample discretion. Your Honour made a suggestion that the Pharmaceutical Society should, *ex gratia*, consider the matter, and if they were inclined to waive costs I was to have a communication on the subject. I have had no communication, therefore the matter stands for decision.

His Honour: What do you say then, Mr. Neal?

Mr. Neal: They are not represented here, and I doubt whether I have any right to say anything. The only thing I can do would be to call your Honour's attention again to the words of the section. The action was brought under section 15 of the 1868 Act, for keeping open shop on two dates. That Act is silent as to costs, but as to the mode of recovering penalties refers back to the Act of 1852, and in that Act are the only sections which apply to the matter.

His Honour: One of those sections applies very much I am afraid.

Mr. Neal: I submit not; because it says "in any proceedings under this Act—that is, the Act of 1852—the victor shall have his costs." Defendants were not proceeded against under that Act, but under the later Act of 1868.

His Honour: Yes, but I am afraid it is incorporated.

Mr. Neal: The only other section I cited to your Honour was the general section of the amended Act, which gives absolute jurisdiction to the Court in costs provided there is no specific enactment on the matter.

His Honour: You see, if I were not to give the plaintiff their costs, would I hear nothing more about it? Because if I do your client would have no *locus standi*.

Mr. Neal: If your Honour expressly stated that you gave the costs *per force*?

His Honour: I am afraid even that would have no effect; if I thought it would I would do it immediately. But I am afraid it would not. I think the Court of Appeal would say: If Judge Waddy had chosen to refuse he might have done, but he has not; he has given. I am afraid you would be up a tree.

Mr. Neal: I should be glad to take the risks.

His Honour: You will very likely have the chance, because I feel strongly about it. Supposing I were to decline to give the costs, they would have to call upon me to fulfil the duty of giving them.

Mr. Neal: I don't know how they can manage that your Honour; there is no appeal on the question of costs, and I don't know that a mandamus would lie.

His Honour: I tell you what I shall do: I will do the thing which I indicated. I give the costs, and accompany that by saying I give them the costs because I believe I am compelled to do so.

Mr. Neal: Then, your Honour, about the *quantum* of the costs. Your Honour refused the application for counsel's fee. I have to ask your Honour whether you think the witnesses ought to be allowed. There was a private inquiry agent came over from Manchester. I submit that was quite unnecessary.

His Honour: I think that was quite unnecessary. The

whole evidence showed clearly that Mr. Burgon was conducting his business, as far as I can see, in an open, reputable, and respectable manner.

Mr. Neal: Does your Honour think they ought to have any costs of witnesses?

His Honour: Yes, all that are requisite for making out their case; but I tell you who I shall not let them have. Foulds, I am told, is the man who takes the whole of this district.

Mr. Neal: Why should we be saddled with the costs of a man from Manchester?

His Honour: It may be some consolation to know we have not got a certain gentleman in our midst. At all events, it will be some satisfaction to people trying to carry on improper trades. I don't say Mr. Burgon was carrying on improperly. They are entitled to Moon, and that I think is all. I see no necessity whatever for allowing the costs of a man from Manchester to do work which might just as well have been done from Sheffield.

Mr. Jarvis (Clerk to the Court): Your Honour directs that the Registrar's clerk shall be the only witness allowed?

His Honour: I think so. I don't think the expenses ought to be allowed of the man from Manchester, who seemed to go through his work as if Mr. Burgon was a rogue. With regard to the rest, as far as any costs are allowed, I allow them, because, according to my reading of the statute, I am compelled to do it. If I had the power to refuse them I should do it, and if I have the power I desire to do it. I do this not out of any objection to this Act, which I consider to be a most beneficial Act; but because I consider in this case they got hold of a gentleman who was absolutely innocent in his own mind of any intention to infringe the Act in any shape or way, and appears to me to be carrying on his business in a perfectly open and respectable manner.

#### A "CONSULTING CHEMIST" FINED.

AT the Lambeth County Court, on October 16, the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain sued a medicine-vendor, named Mendel, who occupies a shop at 5A Maxted Road, Peckham, for infringement of the Pharmacy Act. Mr. T. R. Grey, barrister, who appeared for the Society, stated that two penalties were claimed—one for keeping open a shop for the sale of scheduled poisons, and the second for falsely assuming the title of a registered chemist and druggist. With regard to the first infringement of the Act, counsel explained that a witness named Partridge bought at the defendant's shop on June 24 two substances—paregoric and oxalic acid. A technical difficulty arose as to the paregoric. Upon being analysed it was found that the paregoric was minus opium, the essential ingredient, and this took the purchase out of the schedule of the Pharmacy Act; but, nevertheless, the defendant was liable to penalties under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act. The oxalic acid was, however, of the best quality, and clearly rendered the defendant liable to the penalty prescribed by the Pharmacy Act. Mendel's labels, as well as his shop facia, announced him as a "consulting chemist," and this was an offence under section 15 of the Act. Evidence in support of counsel's statement having been given, Judge Emden, in giving judgment for the full penalties claimed (10*l.*), said the infringement of the Act had been aggravated by the defendant, who did not appear, in selling a compound which was to all intents and purposes a fraud. Costs were allowed on the higher scale.

#### PORTEOUS'S OINTMENT.

IN the Court of Session, on October 17, Lord Low gave judgment in the action raised last spring by members of the Porteous Vegetable-ointment Company, Edinburgh, to have Archibald Porteous, of Stirling and Glasgow, interdicted from manufacturing or selling ointment under the name of "Porteous's vegetable ointment" so as to induce the belief that such ointment was of the complainers' manufacture, and from using the name in his circulars, labels, &c. His Lordship, in reviewing the evidence, said that from a date considerably prior to 1821 Duncan Porteous, a publican at Todhills, near Dalkeith, until his death in 1870 made and sold the ointment under the name of "Porteous's vegetable ointment." He got the recipe from an old lady in the neighbour,

hood. He communicated the recipe to his brother, Alex. Porteous, who was entered in the Edinburgh "Directory" of 1841 as "preparer of ointment to cure scurvy," and to his niece, Mrs. Scott. The father of the complainer, Alex. Poiteous, and the respondent, in turn got the recipe from Alex. Porteous, and, with his brother Archibald, partners in the leather business, made and sold the ointment, and the complainer, Alex. Porteous, succeeded his father in that business. It appeared that A. and A. Porteous and Alex. Porteous, the complainer, acquired some reputation as makers of the ointment. They supplied it to a number of chemists in Edinburgh, Dundee, and other places, and it seemed to have been generally understood in the trade that Poiteous's vegetable ointment was made by the firm in Rose Street, Edinburgh. The other members of the family who sold the ointment, on the other hand, appeared, with the exception of the first Alex. Porteous, to have had only a small local connection. When the respondent heard that his brother, the complainer, had sold the recipe and goodwill to a syndicate for a large sum, he intimated that in his opinion he and the other members of the family should receive a share of the price. His view was that the recipe was an asset of his father's estate. The complainers could not assent to that view, and the respondent then got the recipe from his sister, and commenced to make the ointment for his own and her behoof. In these circumstances his Lordship was of opinion that the respondent could not be interdicted. This was not a case of a person taking a name, and thereby representing that the goods sold by him were the goods of the person whose name he had taken. Respondent's name was Porteous, and the article which he sold was the very article known as Porteous's vegetable ointment. The case was very like that of *Burgess v. Burgess*. The father of the plaintiff in that case had invented Burgess's essence of anchovies. The plaintiff was his father's partner and successor in business and his father's executor and residuary legatee. A brother of the plaintiff, who had been employed as an assistant, and had thereby learned the secret of compounding the essence, set up in business on his own account, and sold Burgess's essence of anchovies. He was restrained from putting upon his shop and labels "late of 107 Strand," which was the place of business of his father and the plaintiff; but the Court refused an injunction against the use of the name. That decision had always been regarded as the leading authority; but his Lordship thought that the right of a person to use his own name as descriptive of an article was laid down under somewhat too absolute terms in that case. He thought the law was that a man might not use his own name as descriptive of an article so as to represent it as being an article made by another. If the complainer had been the inventor of the ointment, and it had been duly known to the public as ointment made by him, it might be doubted whether the respondent would have been entitled to sell it under the same name, even although he had learned in a legitimate way how it was composed. In this case, however, the complainer was not the inventor, nor had he in any way exclusive title to the recipe, nor was he the sole manufacturer. Duncan Porteous, who might be regarded as the inventor, disclosed the secret of its composition to his brother and his niece for the purpose of being used by them, and apparently under no pledge of secrecy. Through these two a number of members of the family had come to know how to make the ointment, and had made and sold it. It seemed to his Lordship that the title of the complainer and the respondent to use the recipe was the same. The respondent was not, however, entitled to represent that the article sold by him was manufactured by the Edinburgh firm. His Lordship, after referring to the boxes, handbills, and labels used by both parties, came to the conclusion that this had not been done; but in one respect he said the respondent's handbills and labels were objectionable. The respondent stated that the ointment was prepared from the original recipe in the sole possession of Archibald Poiteous. That statement was untrue, and was obviously calculated to injure the complainer. The recipe in the respondent's possession was not the original recipe; he had only a copy. No doubt its terms were the same as the original recipe. The statement further suggested that the complainers' ointment was not made according to the original recipe, which also was not the case. He was of opinion that the respondent was not

entitled to continue to make this statement. The respondent was found entitled to his expenses as taxed.

### THE "TESTIMONIAL" BUSINESS.

ON Wednesday, at the High Court of Justice, before the Vacation Judge (Mr. Justice Cave), a motion was heard on behalf of Dr. William Bramwell Ransom, a physician, practising at Nottingham, and physician to the Nottingham General Hospital, as plaintiff, for an injunction to restrain the defendants (the Od Chem Co, of New York), their managers, servants, and agents from publishing, circulating, or otherwise distributing any circulars or pamphlets containing, or purporting to contain, any writing or testimonial purported to be given or sent by the plaintiff in relation to the defendants' preparation or drug called "Sanmetto" (a gonorrhoea remedy), and from in any way representing or leading the public and other medical men to believe that the plaintiff had used the said drug or had certified as to its effects, or for such further or other order as to the Court should seem fit.

Mr. Boome, in support of the motion, said that the plaintiff was a gentleman holding very high qualifications. In addition to holding the appointment of physician to the Nottingham General Hospital he was an M.D. of London, M.R.C.P. London, M.R.C.S. England, M.A. and late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and B.Sc. London. On September 3 he received by post a pamphlet purporting to contain a testimonial from him in favour of a drug called "Sanmetto." The testimonial was as follows:—"Hurrah for Sanmetto! W. B. Ransom, M.A., B.Sc., M.D., M.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S., Fell. Roy. Med. Chir. Soc., Phys. Nott. Gen. Hosp., Bulwell, Nottingham, England, says:—"Hurrah for Sanmetto! My results from its use in bladder cases astonished my confrères. . . ." The testimonial then went on to say that in a certain disease its effect was nothing short of magical. The plaintiff, counsel continued, had filed an affidavit that he had never seen or used the drug or given any testimonial respecting it. By way of answer the defendants set up that they had received a postcard purporting to come from the plaintiff, and containing statements something to the effect of those contained in the spurious testimonial.

Mr. Hart, for the defendant company, interposing, said that not only had the plaintiff been the victim of a cruel hoax in the nature of forgery, but the defendant company equally so. The signature upon the postcard bore a striking resemblance to the plaintiff's signature; but, after the plaintiff's distinct denial of the matter, it was impossible for the defendants to doubt that Dr. Ransom had been made the victim of a cruel hoax, and they (the Od Chem Co) of a forgery. The signature they held on the postcard so much resembled that of the plaintiff's that they had been misled. They had no desire, in presence of Dr. Ransom's repudiation, to continue the publication, and would consent to an injunction. A discussion then took place as to the form of an order by consent. At first it was proposed to make it perpetual, but as it seemed to defendants that their *bona fides* had been impeached, and as some irritation had been produced by a correspondence in the *Lancet*, no agreement was arrived at. Mr. Justice Cave ultimately granted an injunction in terms of the notice of motion until the trial of the action, costs to be costs in the cause.

### Bankruptcies and Failures.

*Re* ADA JANE WILLIAMS (married), trading as Williams & Co., Market Place, Prescott, Chemist, Grocer, Wine and Spirit Dealer.

THIS debtor attended at the Liverpool Bankruptcy Court for public examination on October 16. She stated that her husband was Hugh Maurice Williams, a qualified chemist and druggist, who prior to 1894 carried on a chemist's business in Westminster Road, Liverpool. That business was closed, but with the aid of her father and brothers, who found 200l., the Prescott business was purchased in her name, and carried on as hers, her husband acting as her manager. He, however, became very careless, appropriated considerable

sums from the takings, took to drink, and was now in an asylum. Mr. Ring (the assistant Official Receiver) stated that a trustee had just been appointed, but he had not yet had time to investigate the case. The statement of affairs showed liabilities 505*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*, and assets 303*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* An adjournment for a fortnight was ordered.

*Re* SIDNEY EDDELS JOHNSON, 33 Mark Lane, E.C., and Rainham Ferry, Essex, Chemical-manure Manufacturer.

THIS debtor, who carried on business under the style of Miller & Johnson, filed his petition at the London Bankruptcy Court on October 16, when, upon the application of Messrs. Davidson & Morris, solicitors to the proceedings, the usual receiving-order was made against the estate. The debtor stated that he rents the ground-floor at 33 Mark Lane on a twenty-one years' lease (seven years unexpired), at a rental of 180*l.* per annum. One quarter to Michaelmas is in arrear, and the furniture, including safe, is valued at 20*l.* The premises at Rainham Ferry are his own freehold, but are, with the plant and machinery, subject to mortgage for 6,500*l.* The other assets are a crane, valued at 100*l.*; stock, 750*l.*; office-furniture of trifling value; an interest in certain house-property at Ramsgate; and a balance of 670*l.* at the bank. The last-named item is subject to claims of 200*l.* against bills under discount standing in the joint names of the debtor and another person. The liabilities are roughly estimated at 9,000*l.* The debtor resides at 18 Corona Road, Lee. He owes one quarter's rent, and has household furniture expected to realise 175*l.*

*Re* JOHN E. GOODALL, 3 Britain Street, and the Imperial Pharmacy, Mexborough, Yorkshire, Chemist.

A MEETING of the creditors of this debtor was held on October 17 at the Official Receiver's office, Sheffield. Mr. A. Howe appeared for the debtor. The Official Receiver stated that the debtor filed his petition on September 30, and in his statement of affairs said he owed to unsecured creditors 147*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*, and to creditors for rent 11*l.* 13*s.* He estimated his stock-in-trade at 25*l.*, and his trade-fixtures at 10*s.* His property consisted of two shares in the Chemists' Co-operative Society, valued at 2*l.*, and a disputed claim for 9*l.* 11*s.* His deficiency was stated at 122*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* Debtor was in business as a chemist at Hanley in 1892, and there executed a deed of assignment, with liabilities of 200*l.*, his creditors receiving 1*s.* 3*d.* in the pound. All the creditors, however, did not join in this arrangement, and some had since been pressing him. Debtor again commenced business in Mexborough without any capital, and ultimately finding he was unable to meet his engagements, filed his petition. His wife claimed the furniture. Questioned by the Official Receiver, debtor said he owed about 60*l.* when he started in Mexborough. The matter was left in the hands of the Official Receiver.

## Deeds of Arrangement.

Lyon, Elias, Knowsley Road, Eccleston, St. Helens, mineral-water manufacturer. Trustee, Wm. Henderson Walker (no address given). Dated, October 15; filed, October 19. Secured creditors, 174*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* (including preferential); liabilities unsecured, 566*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*; estimated net assets, 835*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Bush, W. J. & Co., London .. ..	22	0	0
Cannington, Shaw & Co., St. Helens .. ..	115	0	0
Duckworth & Co., Manchester .. ..	36	0	0
Ellis, B. & Co., Liverpool .. ..	63	0	0
France & Son, St. Helens .. ..	34	0	0
Freeman & Co., Liverpool .. ..	23	0	0
Grundy, J. & H., St. Helens .. ..	11	0	0
Hawkes, Dr., Liverpool .. ..	14	0	0
Hunter & Co., Glasgow .. ..	10	0	0
Murphy John, Liverpool .. ..	75	0	0
Nuttall & Co., St. Helens .. ..	45	0	0
Pratt, Jos. B., Liverpool .. ..	14	0	0
Spencer, R., Prescott .. ..	12	0	0
St. Helens Gasworks Company .. ..	12	0	0

Gothard, Ada (trading as E. Gothard), East Philip Street, Salford, and 62 Edwards Street, Lower Broughton, Salford, mineral-water manufacturer. Trustee, Joseph Sharrock, 63 Great Cheetham Street,

Broughton, Salford, soda-water engineer. Dated, September 29; filed, October 13 (by order on terms). Liabilities unsecured, 313*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*; estimated net assets, 235*l.* Assignment upon trust, &c., with power to trustee to carry on the business with a view to the gradual winding up of same. The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Bairstow, Margaret, Salford .. ..	22	0	0
Clayton & Jowett, Salford .. ..	12	0	0
Eagles, W., Salford .. ..	57	0	0
Knowles & Co., Chesterfield .. ..	19	0	0
Lees, S., Salford .. ..	45	0	0
Mayes, F. T., Salford .. ..	11	0	0
Potts, H., Salford .. ..	16	0	0
Rear & Co., Manchester .. ..	30	0	0
Salford Corporation, Salford .. ..	13	0	0
Stolt Brothers, Lower Broughton .. ..	13	0	0

Cole, George Henry Jones, 85 Oxford Street, Manchester, herbalist. Trustee, Harold Dobell, 29 Princess Street, Manchester, accountant. Dated, October 13; filed, October 17. Secured creditors, 54*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*; liabilities unsecured, 701*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*; estimated net assets, 161*l.* 11*s.* Assignment upon trust, &c., with a view to payment of a composition of 5*s.* in pound, by two equal instalments on January 15 and April next, secured by guarantors; one partly secured creditor for 602*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.* agreeing to accept a composition of 10*s.* in pound by sixteen equal quarterly payments, commencing July 15, 1897. The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Elkan Bros, London .. ..	11	0	0
Horfield & Co., Manchester .. ..	12	0	0
Nixon, E. B., Leek .. ..	6	2	0
Quilliam, J. & Co., Manchester .. ..	12	0	0

## Gazette.

### PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Anderson, J., and Kay, R. D., under the style of the Manchester Novelty Company (Limited), Clayton, rubber-manufacturers.  
Dalwood, J. H., and Hughes, H. J., Sherborne, chemists, druggists, and aerated-water manufacturers.  
England, J., and Jenkinson, C. W., under the style of Joseph Green & Co., Woolwich, oil merchants and dyers.  
Mead, G. B., and Mead, G. O., under the style of Mead & Son, Newmarket, surgeons and apothecaries.  
Smith, H., and Smith, W. P., under the style of Ellis, Beal & Co., Brighton, ginger-beer and mineral-water manufacturers.  
Wright, H., and Northcote, P., Scarborough, general medical practitioners.

### THE BANKRUPTCY ACTS, 1883 AND 1890.

#### RECEIVING ORDERS.

Grieves, John William (trading as the International Trade Exhibition Syndicate), St. Martin's House, Gresham Street, E.C., and Lower Edmonton, exhibition-promoter.  
Johnson, Sidney Eddels (trading as Miller & Johnson), Mark Lane, E.C., Rainham Ferry, Essex, and Lee, Kent, chemical-manure manufacturer.

#### ADJUDICATIONS.

Barlow, Ernest Silas (trading as E. S. Barlow & Co.), Oldham, chemist and druggist.  
Griffiths, John Alonzo, Torrington and Bideford, chemist.  
Smith, Thomas William Toone, Market Street, Mayfair, W., in the county of London, surgeon.

**A FINGO WITCH-DOCTOR**—A curious case of native witchcraft is reported from Cape Colony. Punch, a Fingo witch-doctor, was charged at the Dordrecht police court with contravening the Medical Ordinance. Punch, it appears, had medically treated a young girl named Zondiewe, who alleged that she had been bewitched by a native named Langman. Punch ground up certain roots and directed the girl to take them by way of preliminary treatment. He then obtained 4*s.* and a sheep from the girl's father, after which he gave the girl more medicine, cut her on the side, back, arms, breast, stomach, &c., and applied a mixture. He then asked for and got a black bull for his fee. The girl is now worse than before, and has been sent to Pondoland to another doctor. Accused said she was doctored according to native custom with herbs. He was committed for trial.

GOLD MEDALS 1884-1885-1886-1889.

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## **DISINFECTANTS**

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Kingzett's Sulphur Candles and Sulphugators,  
Kingzett's Drain Testers,  
Preserved Peroxide of Hydrogen,  
Mercuric Bactericide, Eucalyptus Oils.

G. Corrosive Sublimate Pellets; "Okol" and "Creocide" Fluids and Powders; Chloride of Zinc; Carbolic Fluids, Powders, and Soaps; Soluble Carbolated Creosote; Moth Paper; Weed Destroyer, Sheep Dips, &c.

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BETHNAL GREEN, LONDON, E.

**G. S. MUMFORD**  
FARRINGTON ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

No. 1 Finest Pure CRUSHED LINSEED	17/ cwt	Finest Pure STARCH POWDER	23/ cwt
No. 2 Pure CRUSHED LINSEED	16/ cwt	No. 1 Finest Light Pure PRECIPITATED CHALK	27/ cwt
BEST CLEANED LINSEED	16/ cwt	No. 2 Pure PRECIPITATED CHALK	23/ cwt
No. 1 Finest Pure FULLER'S EARTH (Light Colour)	16/ cwt	"WHITE EARTH" Specially prepared for Toilet purposes	19/ cwt
No. 2 Pure FULLER'S EARTH	14/ cwt	Finest Pure Sifted TOILET OATMEAL	22/ cwt

\* CARRIAGE PAID to Railway Stations within 200 miles of London (on allowance made for distances beyond) on a total weight of 112 lbs. and upwards of above articles. Smaller parcels delivered free on rail London at above prices.

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Medicine Stamp Duty .. ..	2/6	.. 2/9
Manual of Pharmaceutical Testing .. ..	2/6	.. 2/9
Guide to the Preliminary Examination .. ..	2/-	.. 2/3
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## SCOTT'S EMULSION.

*The Cream of  
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**Hypophosphites of Lime & Soda,**

Has been accepted and prescribed by physicians in **all parts of the world** for the past twenty years, and considered by them **the** preparation of

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# DOG CAKES.

**ELLIS'S**  
"Well charged with gas, and in every respect of the very best quality for drinking."—PERCY F. FRANKLAND, E.Sc., F.C.S.

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—Medical Press.

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### ITROSYL

Produces at will either the official *SPIRIT ÆTHER NIT.* or a more economical but equally efficacious: "Sweet Spirit of Nitre" for Veterinary use.  
Fletcher, Fletcher & Co., Holloway, London.

## Editorial Comments.

### DOES MODERN DISPENSING PAY?

THE Pharmaceutical Winter Session has begun exceptionally well with a particularly interesting and useful paper read by Mr. R. Danton Gibbs to the Midland Chemists' Assistants' Association. This is a contribution to trade literature which it will need a very good paper to beat this winter.

There is a great deal of loose talk in our correspondence, and whenever and wherever pharmacists congregate, about dispensing charges and about chemists' prices generally; and there is loose talk about the same subjects in outside circles also sometimes. This, as Mr. Brudenell Carter would rather roughly tell us, is the result of, and may also result in, a certain degree of muddle-headedness. A straight talk like that of Mr. Gibbs's will help, if we may change our metaphor, to "clear the air." Mr. Gibbs, though a qualified pharmacist, is not a dispenser. This circumstance, perhaps, enables him to take a dispassionate view of the struggle for existence among those who do depend to some extent on dispensing

for their livelihood. It may be that to some of these his philosophical consideration of the basis of their charges will be less welcome than a scathing denunciation of all who trench on the poor chemists' profits would be. But the worst of it is that these indignant philippics do no good to anyone. It is easy enough to demonstrate to the satisfaction of a Pharmaceutical Conference that the chemist who has spent a hundred pounds or more on the acquirement of his legal qualification may fairly claim a modest professional fee for the exercise of his skill in addition to his ordinary profit on the drugs which he compounds. No one will dispute that claim; only if another equally qualified man in the same street says he will do the work for the mere profit on the drugs, the admirably marshalled argument will have no weight with the public who want their prescriptions dispensed. They are likely to admit the professional claim and spend their money with the man who assumes only to be a tradesman.

Mr. Gibbs points out that it is only business-like prudence for any chemist to calculate the cost of his finished mixture or box of pills; and to get at that cost accurately he shows that labour as well as materials must be taken into account. That having been done we have a fair basis on which to charge. But Mr. Gibbs correctly states that chemists do not as a rule adopt this basis. By custom, and almost unconsciously, they charge for medicines on something like a dose scale. This system, as Mr. Gibbs points out, is not easily defensible; and it is unfair, in that it makes the customer whose medicine can be compounded in five minutes help pay for the one who occupies half an hour or more of the dispenser's time.

If, then, we could get to Mr. Gibbs's strictly just method of charging medicines dispensed according to the materials and labour, properly reckoned, we should have a system which we could readily defend; but we should be in scarcely any better position practically so long as the supply of the necessary labour exceeded the demand. Mr. Gibbs says a thing is not necessarily worth what it costs to produce it; it is only worth what a person will give for it. And as a general economic rule the buyer will not for long pay one seller more for the same article than he can get it for from another. Certainly all customers are not like the editor of *Truth*, who is quite satisfied if he gets an article which is called the same, and who appears to be contented to have his strychnine weighed out for him in a pair of grocer's scales if he can get it a few pence cheaper. But the public generally are willing to pay a fairly higher price for a better quality of service. Thus, then, qualification can and does get some sort of reward.

But the outcome of the argument which Mr. Gibbs puts before us is a strong doubt whether modern dispensing prices are profitable. A dispenser, however poorly he is paid, and however long he is worked, cannot cost less than a shilling an hour. He ought to cost nearer double that. The rent of the dispensing part of the pharmacy, and the interest on the capital sunk in fitting it and providing it with a varied stock, a good bit of which will be lost, must amount to at least another shilling an hour. So that in an establishment where dispensing goes on all day without intermission the labour costs at least two shillings an hour, and should be reckoned at three shillings, or even more. Consequently a troublesome dozen of pills, which may occupy in half an hour to turn out properly, come out at a dead loss if charged at not more than a shilling. This is the sort of calculation we would like to see chemists, and especially cutting chemists, go into, and we are disposed to think that if they would do so they would come to the conclusion that present so-called modern rates for dispensing do not pay.

## DAY LIGHT.

As we stated last week Day's Southern Drug Company (Limited) are following the Boots' lead in opposing the aims of the Proprietary Articles Trade Association. The methods of the Southampton firm follow with curious closeness those which emanate from Nottingham. First an advertisement appears in the local papers with sensational crosslines, this is reprinted in the form of a circular, information about the "corner" and the "ring" is printed on a slip and attached to each of the protected articles sold, and finally a vigorous letter is addressed to proprietors, urging them in the sacred name of free trade to have nothing to do with that unclean thing, and threatening that the serious displeasure of William Day will follow that of Jesse Boot unless these proprietors submit to their dictation.

We print elsewhere the Day circular in full as we did that of Messrs. Boots, and we compliment Mr. Day on the ability which he has brought to bear on its composition. But we do not propose to comment on it in detail. The best reply to it is given in the announcement, which also appears this week, that several additions, including such popular articles as Powell's balsam, Beetham's corn-plasters and glycerine and cucumber, and Möller's cod-liver oil, have been added to the protected list.

We do not wish to make the mistake of underrating the strength of these two opponents. They represent nearly a hundred businesses between them, including, no doubt, some strong ones and some weak ones. By representing the demand of the distributors as a conspiracy, and their Association as a "ring," they make an effective advertisement, and one which may have a certain influence with some readers. But it is as well for even Messrs. Boot and Day to be reminded that the majority of newspaper-readers are possessed of intelligence, and are not to be bamboozled by spurious pretensions to defend free trade and to pose as philanthropists. In this agitation there is no interference whatever with the principles of free trade which even a Cobden Club man could object to. Free trade, properly understood, comprehends the faculty to make contracts freely, to sell services at a fair price, and for a maker to do what he likes with his own products so long as he does no injustice to other people. Messrs. Boot and Day must admit, we think, if they are pinned to it, that the purpose of their advertisements and of their circulars is to prevent as far as lies in their power the exercise of this freedom of contract, of this power to sell service for a due reward, and of this right of manufacturers to do what they will with their own products. We say that not one reader of their advertisements out of five will do anything but smile at their professions of burning anxiety to serve the public. Rightly or wrongly, the other four will assume that they have an axe of their own to grind.

The opposition of these two firms has no doubt delayed to some extent the success of the scheme of the Association; but we are inclined to think it will go some way towards making that success more solid in the end. If chemists stick together now they will win, and they can yet make a good business out of proprietary articles. It has been proved to the hilt that the company traders are the great substitutes. Manufacturers can hardly be under any delusion in respect to that fact at this time. They cannot suppose that it pays a company any more than it does an individual to keep qualified assistants in costly shops just to make a halfpenny or less profit out of a customer. Our correspondent is not perhaps far out of it who tells us this week that one of the big companies considers that assistant a poor one who cannot place one of "our own specialties" once in

three times when a patent is asked for. But it is these men who have challenged the fight—why they have done it we cannot conceive. If the “managing directors” of the several companies have got half the brains we credit them with they will always be able to find means of impressing their virtues on the public. However this may be, chemists can, as we say, win if they have grit enough in them to maintain the fight. This is not to be done by writing letters abusing their antagonists. It can be accomplished, however, by combination and by distinct intimation to proprietors that they will help the proprietors who will help them, and will not help those who are against them.

### PROTECTION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

It is possible, though at present not probable, that a revised Customs tariff for Cape Colony and the Orange Free State may shortly pass into law. At present the fiscal policy, both of Cape Colony and of the Orange Free State, is highly protectionist, and as there is scarcely any manufacturing industry in either country, and the land-carriage rates are necessarily very high, the artificial appreciation of all commodities presses heavily upon the consuming classes, and upon those engaged in mining. It may seem strange that a country so compact and so interdependent upon its component parts as South Africa should not have formed a Customs Union long ago; but the case of Australasia is a standing proof that small communities cannot be persuaded that it is to their interest to act together in such matter, however patent that fact may be to outsiders. In South Africa, of course, the difficulty is increased by racial differences, and by the existence of a highly bureaucratic and protectionist Portuguese settlement on the East Coast.

Since 1883 Cape Colony, the Orange Free State, British Bechuanaland, and Basutoland have formed a Customs Union, Natal and the Transvaal having tariffs of their own; but within the past month negotiations for a new tariff between Cape Colony, the Orange Free State, and one or two of the smaller divisions of South Africa have been carried on at Bloemfontein, the capital of the Free State. Natal was at first a party to these negotiations, but withdrew when the other countries agreed to maintain the present high rates of duty on food-stuffs. The strong farmer element of the Cape and the Free State naturally wants these duties preserved, as it is thereby enabled to make inordinate profits by supplying the dwellers in the rapidly-growing towns with the necessities of life. But Natal is a free-trade colony, or, as its enemies say, allows its fiscal policy to be ruled by a handful of importing houses at Durban, and Natal would not consent to a high duty on food-stuffs.

The Cape and Orange Free State delegates finally agreed upon a draft-tariff, but they decided not to reveal its details for fear of dislocating trade. But as the draft-tariff cannot pass into law until after ratification of the Cape Parliament and the Orange Free State Volksraad, its provisions have naturally become public property since it was submitted to the last-named of these bodies, which is now in session at Bloemfontein. The *Times* correspondent at Capetown has communicated the principal features of the proposed new tariff to his journal. They are not at all of a sweeping character, and, so far as the drug-trade is concerned, appear to be in an upward rather than a downward direction. The duty on confectionery and preserved fruits is increased from 2*d.* to 2½*d.* per lb.; on spices a new duty of 2*d.* per lb. is established; sweetened and perfumed liquors and cordials, now dutiable at 10*s.* 6*d.* per gallon, will pay 1*s.* 10*d.* or 11*s.*

(which is not clear); vinegar, 1*s.* instead of 6*d.* per gallon; wine, in bottles, 8*s.* 6*d.* instead of 6*s.* per gallon. The duty on dry ginger is to be reduced from 3*d.* to 2*d.* per lb., and that on paraffin oil from 1*s.* to 3*d.* per gallon. The general *ad valorem* duty for articles not expressly specified is to be lowered from 12 to 9 per cent., but chemical essences and perfumed oils, now dutiable at the rate of 15 per cent., are to pay 20 per cent. in future. A 20 per cent. duty is also placed on “food extracts” and “patent chemicals” (whatever that may mean), which looks like a smart increase. At present the indications are that the Tariff Bill will fail to pass the Cape Parliament and the Volksraad. It may possibly be rejected by both. The Orange Free State President introduced the measure to the Volksraad in a don't-na'l-his-ear-to-the pump fashion, which bodes ill for its success. What the Orange Free State people want is to couple the Tariff Bill with a measure securing to them greater advantages in the railway which connects their country with the Cape. Both, or neither, seems to be their motto. The Cape wants to treat each question separately, and a large section of public opinion seems to incline to the view that even in the Tariff Bill too many concessions have already been made to the Free State. From a British point of view it will matter really very little whether the measure be carried or no. It is not sufficiently sweeping to be of much use, and it may, if passed, perpetuate the protectionist policy. In spite of its antiquated fiscal policy, 1895 was the best trading year which South Africa has known for a very long time. The imports into the whole of South Africa (excepting those by way of the Portuguese Port of Beiro) were valued at 21,195,000*l.*, against 13,712,000*l.* in 1894; while the exports rose from 15,412,000*l.* to 18,634,000*l.* The revenue from Customs duties in Cape Colony, Natal, and Delagoa Bay was 3,003,177*l.*, against 2,576,491*l.* in 1894. This increase has been achieved in spite of unusual drought, a plague of locusts, and the continued low price of most staple commodities of exports. It was brought about solely by the increased output of gold in the Transvaal. Singularly enough, while almost all the principal articles of import showed an increase in 1895 over 1894, the value of imported drugs and chemicals declined from 334,233*l.* to 336,798*l.* Colours and dyes increased from 48,261*l.* to 58,453*l.*, soaps from 85,317*l.* to 104,191*l.* in value. That South Africa, even under the present fiscal conditions, is one of the most promising colonial markets for drugs, is shown by the fact that the imports of drugs and chemicals in Cape Colony alone have increased steadily from 62,482*l.* in 1884 to 230,491*l.* in 1893.

### THE PHARMACY ACT IN THE SHEFFIELD COUNTY COURT.

It is not easy to understand what is the meaning of Mr. Waddy, the Sheffield County Court Judge, in practically fining the Pharmaceutical Society for bringing a case under the Pharmacy Act before him. The case differed very little from others which have been tried in other County Courts all over the country, and which have been heard also by the Judges of the High Court. A firm of grocers in Sheffield exposed for sale and sold a preparation of morphia, which the law, as interpreted by the highest authorities, says they must not sell. The sales were made, we are told, “inadvertently,” and on one or two occasions only. Unfortunately for the vendors, on two of these “one or two occasions” the purchaser was an agent of the Pharmaceutical Society. There was really no defence to the suit. The infringement of the Act was proved, and it was Mr. Waddy's duty to impose the penalty and order the costs to be paid.

which the law prescribes. To do him justice, he did perceive his duty, and in a grudging way fulfilled it. But he accompanied his judgment with certain irrelevant comments, which some Judges would not have permitted the counsel for the defence to make at any length. He found for the plaintiff "with sorrow and regret"; he testified to the highly respectable character of the grocer, which nobody had called in question, the only allegation against him before the Court being that he had infringed the Pharmacy Act; and, whether legally or not we cannot say, he granted the plaintiff Society only a ridiculous proportion of the costs which he must have known they had necessarily incurred in proving their case. In point of fact, Mr. Waddy is taking upon himself to repeal the statute so far as Sheffield is concerned, for no one can expect that the Pharmaceutical Society, which is the only possible plaintiff in such actions, will be eager to renew the costly honour of an appearance before that gentleman.

County-court judges have a considerable responsibility in the matter of the Pharmacy Act. They can treat it as an Act of national benefit, or they can convey the idea to the public that it is a sort of trade-union protection statute. When a person dies from any kind of poisoning the jury and the coroner inquire very closely whether every provision of the Act relating to the sale of poisons has been observed; but when an attempt is made to secure obedience to the law without waiting for a death the Pharmaceutical Society is occasionally subject to ungenerous remarks like those made by Mr. Waddy. We venture to hope that that functionary will see his way to treat Acts of Parliament with proper respect so long as they remain on the statute-book whether he approves of them or not.

### THE PRICE OF CROTON-SEED.

WHEN we stated, in our trade report of last week, that the prices realised by Ceylon croton-seed at Thursday's drug-auctions were believed to be the highest ever paid for the article, we voiced the prevailing impression of the druggists who witnessed the sale. Moreover, we had had no time to look up the course of prices for a number of years back. Messrs. Angnst Faber & Co., the well-known firm of export druggists, to whose courtesy we have frequently been indebted for interesting information respecting the price-fluctuations of drugs in days which few of the present frequenters of the Mincing Lane markets remember, have written us to point out that, on at least one previous occasion, croton-seed has been sold by auction at figures beside which last week's quotations are nothing short of beggarly. Our informants say:—

"On October 28, 1870, a small parcel of 16 bags of the seed sold at 95s. to 102s. per cwt., and in January, 1871, the nominal private quotation for the drug (according to price-lists of the period), was from 6l. to 8l. per cwt. But these figures are nothing compared to those realised on October 13, 1855, by a parcel of 43 packages, which, at auction, fetched from 23l. to 26l. 5s. per cwt. This transaction was such an extraordinary one that we made the following comment upon it:—'The croton-seeds were offered in two lots of (about) 20 bags, each lot representing a value of about 700l., at the price of 23l. per cwt., and the profit attaching to this sale is estimated at 1,000l.'"

Messrs. Angnst Faber & Co.'s communication has caused us to inquire further into the price-fluctuations of croton-seed, with the result of bringing to light a few more interesting facts. The summer of 1855 appears to have been a critical period in the commercial history of the drug, for while in July the

current Mincing Lane quotation was from 90s. to 95s. per cwt. (already an unusually high price), we find in the *C. & D.* of August 15, 1865, the note—"Croton-seed much dearer, with sales at from 20l. to 25l. per cwt." The transaction in October of that year to which Messrs. Faber & Co. refer appears to have been the climax of the movement, for shortly afterwards croton-seed again fell to its normal figure. In several subsequent years there was a temporary scarcity, but in each instance a moderate advance in price resulted in the importation of large consignments. Between 1836 and 1838 the imports from India and Ceylon became so heavy that prices fell to a point at which it was supposed that arrivals would cease from sheer want of inducement to continue the collection of the drug, and towards the end of the eighties we find a record of business having been done in London at 8s. 6d. per cwt., which we think that, without fear of contradiction, we may put down as the low water mark of the drug. Meanwhile, the pressers of croton oil had followed, in their quotations, the trend of the market for raw material, competition among them being exceedingly keen. But not until this year have the exports of croton-seed from Ceylon (which is now our chief source of supply) shown an unmistakable tendency to cease altogether. The result has been the high prices witnessed last Thursday. The general impression appears to be that there will be few or no further shipments until next summer, but whether that view is correct remains to be seen. It may be pointed out, however, that the croton-tree is a very common one from Ceylon northward along the eastern coast of India as far as Burmah, and that the Indian bazaars could probably furnish a fairly large supply of seed if the European price made it worth their while to do so.

Some ten or twelve years ago several planters in Ceylon began to pay attention to the cultivation of the croton-tree, and it is stated on good authority that in 1888 there were about 120 acres under the plant, mostly in the provinces of Haputale, Badulla, and Ma'ale.

As croton-seed of good quality contains over one-half its weight of the fatty oil (the cathartic and vesicating properties of which are the only reasons for the use of the drug), and as the usual dose of croton oil is only one drop, it is clear that the possible consumption of the seed is a very limited one. A single shipment of a couple of hundred bags would probably suffice to knock the bottom out of the market again.

Hanbury states ("Pharmacographia," page 565) that in 1824 the firm of Allen & Hanburys paid 10s. per lb. for croton-seed, in 1826 8s. to 10s. per lb., and in 1827 as much as 18s. per lb. These figures thrown even Messrs. Faber's record in the shade; but they are probably accounted for by the fact that only two or three years earlier croton oil had been given a place in European materia medica. The seeds had been official as early as the sixteenth century, but had become quite obsolete, and appear not to have been used again until 1812, when they were administered by English officers in India. At first the oil was imported from the East, but as it was often found to be impure, British druggists began to press the seeds themselves, and within the past generation we do not think that any croton oil has been brought to this country from India or Ceylon.

### GELANTHUM.

This is the name which Dr. P. G. Unna, of Hamburg, gives to a new watery varnish which he recommends for the application of medicaments in skin diseases. He describes its advantages in the *British Medical Journal*, and these, summed up, are:—It may be better spread than the older watery varnishes; it dries more rapidly and with a smoother

surface; feels more cooling, on account of the greater amount of water it contains; keeps the drugs suspended, and distributes them more evenly on the skin; may be combined with one or more drugs; permits the drying of hygroscopic drugs such as ichthyol, and the addition of grease, and if protected from drying may practically be kept for ever. The gelanthum is a *gelatine* and *tragacanthum* base (the italicised syllables show how the name is built up), and the directions which Dr. Unna gives for making it are as follows:—

Pieces of crude tragacanth are emulsified for four weeks in the cold, with twenty times their volume of water. They are then treated with steam for one day, further swollen, and finally pressed through muslin. The gelatine, on the other hand, is swollen up cold, and then filtered in Dr. Unna's steam filter, after long exposure to steam pressure, which takes from it part of its power of gelatinising. The mixture of the two is allowed to swell for two days in steam. After being pressed once more through muslin, it is mixed with 5 per cent. of glycerine, some rose-water, and 2 per 10,000 of thymol, in order to prevent the growth of fungi. The preparation contains about 2½ per cent. each of tragacanth and gelatine.

These directions are not too precise, but it is right to explain that the process was worked out by Dr. Mielcke, the Hamburg Apotheker (recently deceased), and we presume that his firm still make gelanthum and put it on the market.

#### ANÆSTHESIA JUBILEE.

The first operation under ether was performed at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, U.S.A., on October 16, 1846, so that the jubilee of the event occurred on Friday of last week. The first operation under anæsthetics in London was performed on December 19, 1846. It was in the following year that Sir James Y. Simpson got the hint about chloroform from Mr. Waldie, the Liverpool chemist, and we shall hear all about that in Miss Simpson's biography of her father, which is to be the next of the "Famous Scots" series. We can spare no space this week to refer in further detail to the anæsthesia jubilee; but we may refer those interested to an exceptionally clever special number of the *Practitioner* commemorating the jubilee.

#### TWO FARMER'S FRIENDS.

The Manchester journals recently reported a "test-case" in which a dealer—who had placed upon the market as "artificial manure," and sold for 5*l.* 10*s.* a ton, a compound which, when analysed, was found to contain 1.44 per cent. of nitrogen, 8.94 per cent. insoluble phosphates, and no trace of potash or soluble phosphates—was prosecuted for infringing the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act. Defendant was convicted and fined 34*l.* 18*s.* In Germany they do not let off individuals who trade upon the ignorance of the farmer quite so easily. Almost at the same time that the Staffordshire "artificial manure merchant" was mulcted in 34*l.* 18*s.* a colleague of his, Mr. Adolf Artmann, was brought up before the District Court at Dortmund, in Germany, charged with having sold as pure nitrate of soda an article adulterated with nearly 50 per cent. of Stassfurt salt. Artmann was fined 25*l.*, plus four months' imprisonment. They manage these things better in Germany.

#### DENTISTS ON THE "C. & D." FUND.

The *British Journal of Dental Science* has an article in its issue of October 15 entitled "Fighting the Dentists," and referring to our fund. A very fair and intelligent summary of our arguments is given, and then our contemporary proceeds to argue against us in, as it seems to us, a rather less intelligent fashion. He rightly assumes that our success in the "veterinary-chemist" case gives us some confidence in regard to this one; but, says the *B.J.D.S.*,

"the cases are not on all fours. In the former case it [*The*

*C. & D.*] won the right for a chemist who sold veterinary medicines and compounded them to call himself a veterinary chemist. But no professional veterinary operations were performed, and the public ran no risk of being deceived. In the present case professional operations requiring great skill—for which the legally qualified man has to undergo an arduous curriculum—would be performed, and the public would be deceived. If *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* relies upon this case—and it seems to do so—it will find that it is grievously mistaken."

We are quite unable to follow this reasoning. Operations are not dealt with either in the Veterinary Surgeons Act or in the Dentists Act. It is precisely this assumption on the part of the dentists that their Act means something more than it says that we are contending against. The *B.J.D.S.* goes on to point out that "this agitation from them [chemists] comes with a specially bad grace [because chemists have also unqualified competitors to contend against], and we cannot think that it proceeds from the better class of this respected community." But our contemporary would no doubt assume that association with this agitation is proof of not belonging to "the better class of this respected community." However that may be, we of the lower orders may perhaps look for justice if we get before a competent tribunal; and, like our friends, "if the test case is even entered upon, we anticipate the result with calmness and confidence."

#### ANOTHER!

*Practical Druggist and Pharmaceutical Review of Reviews* is the title of a new drug journal which is to be shortly issued in New York by Benjamin Lillard, formerly of the *Druggists' Circular, American Druggist, &c.* We learn from the prospectus that the new journal is to avoid all the faults of the drug journals now in existence, is to be a true friend to the hardworking and busy druggist, and is to tell the whole truth.

#### CASCARA SAGRADA.

Professor J. U. Lloyd, on behalf of the Research Committee of the American Pharmaceutical Association, has reported on the history and names of *Rhamnus Purshiana*. In the course of this he states that it was a Dr. J. H. Bundy, of Colusa, Cal., who first (in 1877) mentioned the drug to the medical profession, and in that year and 1878 numerous papers on it appeared in Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co.'s journal, *New Preparations*. In the autumn of 1878, Dr. C. H. Adair, Dr. Bundy's partner, sent to Professor Lloyd specimens of the bark and botanical specimens of the tree yielding it, and these were identified by Mr. Curtis G. Lloyd as from *Rhamnus Purshiana*. This established the drug's botanical position. Professor Lloyd adds:—"To Parke, Davis & Co., of Detroit, Mich. (1878), is due the credit of making the first pharmaceutical preparation (the fluid extract), and of bringing this preparation into general conspicuity through their advertisements and business connections. It may be said, without danger of controversy, that this firm introduced and established cascara sagrada as a remedy." This brief historical *résumé* we have thought worthy of mention, for though the last part of it is well known, the sequence of the evolution is not so.

**OLD WIVES AND DOCTORS**—A story is told of the late Rev. Mr. Pain, of Wick, who one Sabbath was seized with faintness in the pulpit. He recovered sufficiently to resume the service, but a few minutes afterwards he had a more prolonged attack, which obliged him to desist, and the congregation dispersed, many of them in tears. Next morning the manse gate was besieged by parishioners eagerly inquiring how he had passed the night; and several old women forced their way into the house with various infallible nostrums to cure his disorder, but unanimous only in one point, which was in earnestly admonishing him to "take nothing the doctor ordered."

## Marriage.

**BRAY—POAD.**—On October 5, W. J. Bray, senior representative of Messrs. A. de St. Dalmas & Co., Leicester, to Florence Maud, daughter of Mr. G. H. Poad, Exeter.

## Deaths.

**BRAMALD.**—On August 14, at Daniverke, Hawkes Bay, N.Z., Mr. F. Dixon Bramald, of the New Zealand Drug Company, Wellington, at the age of 36. Mr. Bramald formerly carried on the business of the Oakfield Road Pharmacy, Clifton, Bristol, but left a few years ago, under medical advice, for New Zealand. He leaves a widow and children.

**CROMPTON.**—On July 30, Mr. Robert Crompton, chemist and druggist, Chorley, Lancs. Aged 75.

**DEALVE.**—The death took place on Saturday last, at Wadebridge, at the early age of 24 years, of Mr. A. E. Dealve, chemist. The deceased, who was a native of Tavistock, was very popular in the district. He was an active member of the Congregationalists and a Sunday-school teacher. He was also a prominent member of the Wadebridge football team.

**PARNELL.**—On October 8, Mr. George William Parnell, pharmaceutical chemist, Hastings. Aged 69.

**PRICE.**—On October 17, at his residence, Church Road, Upton, Birkenhead, Mr. John Price, who for over thirty years carried on business as a chemist and druggist in Whitechapel, Liverpool. Mr. Price was an active promoter of the building-society movement, and chairman of several societies. During the last ten years he had been engaged in farming at Upton.

**TRIMEN.**—The illness of Dr. Henry Trimen, F.R.S., F.L.S. Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya, Ceylon, to which we referred a fortnight since, terminated fatally on Friday, October 16. Through Dr. Trimen's death systematic botany has lost one of the few cultured exponents now remaining to the science since its biological side has developed so fully. Dr. Trimen, who was in his fifty-third year, was born in London, and after his scholastic education entered the medical school at King's College, and under the late Prof. Bentley's guidance became an ardent student of botany. Proceeding with his medical studies Mr. Trimen graduated as M.B. at the London University in 1865. He did not become a practising physician, but was appointed curator of the anatomical museum at King's College and lecturer on botany at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School. In 1869 he was appointed an assistant in the Botanical Department of the British Museum. From 1872 to 1879 he was editor of the *Journal of Botany*. He was appointed Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Ceylon, in 1880, and in 1883 was employed by the Government of Madras to report upon the cinchona plantations in the Nilgiri Hills. Dr. Trimen's contributions to botanical literature include a "Flora of Middlesex" written in conjunction with Mr. Thistleton Dyer, and the well-known and valued work on "Medicinal Plants" written by Prof. Bentley and himself, and published between 1875 and 1880. He also wrote several works on Ceylon flora. His labours in Ceylon have been crowned with success, the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens being one of the beauty spots of the earth. It was largely through his influence that cinchona cultivation in Ceylon became a possibility, and he also devoted considerable attention to coffee and other economic plants. Dr. Trimen was a man of much personal charm, and his loss at a comparatively early age will be greatly regretted. He was one of the first-elected corresponding members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, to which he had made many contributions of herbaria and other specimens.

**RHINOCEROS-HORNS** form a considerable article of import into China. They are chiefly used for medicinal purposes. The Chinese have great faith in them as a panacea for various infections.

## Personalities.

THE late Archbishop of Canterbury was the eldest son of a chemical manufacturer, Mr. Edward White Benson, of Birmingham Heath, Birmingham.

**MR. CHARLES W. WHITE**, the Indian representative of Messrs. Burgoyne, Barbidges & Co., Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., and Messrs. Barnett & Foster, is leaving Marseilles on Saturday for Bombay.

**DR. C. DÜNNENBERGER**, the Anglo-American pharmacist of Zurich, has received a silver medal from the Geneva Exhibition, and a gold medal from the Prague Pharmaceutical Exhibition, for his commentary on the Swiss Pharmacopœia.

On the occasion of the marriage of Mr. William Bray, senior representative of Messrs. A. de St. Dalmas & Co., medical-plaster manufacturers, Leicester, the firm showed their appreciation of his services by presenting him with a very handsome silver tea and coffee service.

THE curators of the Flickiger Memorial Fund have given their first award this year to Dr. Julius O. Schlöterbeck, professor of pharmacognosy and materia medica in the School of Pharmacy, University of Michigan, for researches in the history in the development of several official seeds. According to the *Era* Dr. Schlöterbeck has just completed a course of study at the University of Berne. He is an Ann Arbor boy, served his apprenticeship to the drug-trade there, and got his Ph.C. and B.Sc. at the university of which he is now a professor.

THE *Pharmaceutische Zeitung* relates that the late Baron Sir Ferd. von Mueller received his patent of hereditary nobility from the King of Württemberg in 1870, on account of the extremely liberal manner in which he had presented to the Natural History Museum at Stuttgart (of which the director was an intimate personal friend of his) specimens of the Australian flora and fauna, many of them of extreme rarity. Von Mueller, although a Northern German by birth, appears to have held Württemberg in peculiar affection, for he also established a fund for enabling naturalists and medical men from that country to undertake extra-European voyages especially for the purpose of collecting specimens for the Stuttgart museum. Von Mueller emigrated from Germany to Australia fifty years ago, in company with his two sisters, who, like himself, had a tendency to pulmonary phthisis. They all recovered at the Antipodes.

ESTATE duty has been paid on 25,205*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* as the value of the personal estate of Mr. Albert Cowell Ridley, of the firm of Grimwade, Ridley & Co., wholesale chemists, of 82 Bishopsgate Street, E.C., and of Princes Street, Ipswich. The executors are Elizabeth Ridley (widow), Henry and Albert Paul Ridley (sons), Arthur Turner and John George Cranfield (sons-in-law of the deceased). Mr. Ridley bequeathed to his wife and his children 1,000*l.* each, and to his sisters Laura and Eliza or the survivor of them a life annuity of 50*l.* He bequeathed the furniture and effects at Helenscote to Mrs. Ridley, who is authorised with the testator's sons to carry on his business until January 1, 1904, paying as rent for the premises 4½ per cent. per annum on the value at which they stand in his books, and allowing to his sons or one of them 200*l.* a year for management, and paying to his estate interest at the rate of 5 per cent. of his capital, and then dividing the profits equally among themselves. The remainder of the income of the late Mr. Ridley's estate is to be paid to Mrs. Ridley during her life, and subject to her life interest the residuary estate is to be in trust in equal shares for his children.

**MR. W. T. OWBRIDGE**, the Sheriff-elect of Hull, has been interviewed by one of the local papers, and he gave the reporter some particulars concerning his business in "lung-tonic." He was born, he said, at Haxey, in Lincolnshire, but went, or, rather, was taken, to Hull when he was a year old. His father, who is still living, was a flour-miller. The future Sheriff was apprenticed to Mr. Tarn, chemist and druggist, who carried on business for many years in Chariot Street. At the close of the term additional experience was obtained in several other establishments, and about twenty-eight or twenty-nine years since he took over the business of

Mr. Hickson, chemist and druggist, Porter Street. He began the lung-tonic enterprise about twenty-two years ago. At first he advertised only locally in the newspapers and by distribution of handbills. Twenty years ago he spent 100% per annum, now he spends 15,000% a year in advertising. He commenced manufacturing lung-tonic with a two-gallon bottle and a half-gallon pan, and was very thankful to receive an order for a dozen or two bottles; but the business has grown to such an extent as to necessitate the erection of factories, laboratories, workshops, storage-warehouses, and packing department. The firm now turn out nearly 15,000 bottles a day, and have always 730,000 bottles in use. They make besides an embrocation and a dietetic-water for young children, in both of which they do a big business. This will be Mr. O'bridge's first experience of public life.

## Trade Notes.

MESSRS. JAMES EWEN & SONS announce a reduction in the price of their clarified and benzoated lards.

THOSE on the outlook for artistic perfumery should see what Messrs. Blondeau & Cie. say this week. The firm seem to have mastered that most difficult of all problems—how to combine chasteness with cheapness.

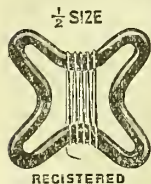
THE LIQUOR CARNIS COMPANY, of Aston Clinton, Bucks, have prepared leaflets giving recipes for the preparation of calf's-foot jelly, port-wine jelly, beef-jelly, and beef-tea, which they would like to distribute to the public through chemists.

IT will be observed that Thomas Powell (Limited), in adding Powell's balsam of aniseed and Powell's mild aperient pills to the list of protected proprietaries, make the face-value the minimum price. Chemists should show their appreciation of this plucky conduct.

MÖLLER'S HYDROXYL-FREE COD-LIVER OIL.—It will be noticed from an announcement made elsewhere in this issue, that Möller's cod-liver oil, which has recently made considerable headway in the favour of the medical profession, has been placed upon a non-cutting basis, and the proprietor now ensures that retailers will make as much by selling an 8-oz bottle of Möller's oil as by the same quantity of oil put up by themselves.

MALT EXTRACT.—Messrs. Evans, Gadd & Co., of Exeter, send us samples of their "Exonia" brand of extract of malt, which we can commend to the attention of the trade. It is a nice pale product, made from English and Scotch barley, and apparently of good diastasic power. The firm show their confidence in it by guaranteeing both the diastasic power and keeping properties. They also make the malt in combination with 25 per cent. of condensed milk, this preparation being especially useful for children. It is, we notice, not excessively sweet, and is a perfect mixture.

A NEW GLASS LIGATURE-REEL.—Surgeons will appreciate this little novelty, which is supplied by Messrs. Reynolds & Branson, of Leeds. It is an aseptic ligature-reel for silk. Solid reels have the disadvantage when in use of requiring prolonged boiling to sterilise the deeper layers of the silk. This reel is made out of glass-rod bent into the shape of a Maltese cross, so that the innermost layers of silk can be easily permeated by the boiling water in the process of sterilising. The reels are made in glass of various colours, so that the different sizes of silk may be easily distinguished. The glass is toughened by the boiling, and does not easily break.



MR. H. SILVERLOCK, 92 Blackfriars Road, S.E., has just published a very handsome book of specimens of specially designed engraved labels for chemists and perfumers. The book contains some beautiful specimens of chromolithographic work, as well as engraved designs in black and white, and we also observe some very pretty effects in combining black and red colours. We note that the whole of the designs are copyright. Mr. Silverlock has recently published a second edition of his Postal Order Record Book, which, as far as we are aware, is the only thing of the kind

for making complete entries of postal orders sent out. It is a well-arranged book, and firms who have many remittances to make by this system will find it invaluable.

MESSRS. W. H. WILLCOX & Co., of Southwark Street, have taken the works lately occupied by the Sphincter Grip Company to manufacture their patent wire-bound hose. Formerly the manufacture was carried out in Dublin. The London factory will enable Messrs. Willcox to execute English orders promptly. The wire bound hose, which is a substitute for the ordinary rubber-hose, is manufactured from the finest flax-linen, which is oil-dressed, and being bound by wire outside and internally, the structure is one of the strongest that could be introduced for hose. At the same time it is perfectly flexible, and it cannot kink. It is adapted for use with various engines, water-carts, manure-pumps, tar-pumps, oil-pumps, fire-engines, and for conveying oil and other greasy liquids. It is now being supplied to petroleum-tank ships. The Anglo-American Oil Company have used it largely for several years.

PRICE'S PATENT CANDLE COMPANY (LIMITED), of Battersea, have produced for the coming Christmas season two new styles of toilet-soaps of the very highest quality. One is the "Elaine" ("Elaine the fair, Elaine the lovable"), in cream-tinted tablets, very soft and pleasant in use, and a perfect lady's soap. The other is the "Savon de Flore," which makes a more showy display, being in vari coloured tablets, respectively stamped "Clematis," "Lavender," "Sweet Briar," "Honeysuckle," "Stephanotis," and "Wild Rose," and delicately perfumed to match. Great care has evidently been taken with the desiccation and milling of these soaps, which, with the company's older soaps, the "Regina," queen of toilet-soaps, and "Glycerine Cream," both of which are supplied in wrapped packets, make a collection of high-class toilet-soaps which will credit any chemist's stock. We may also note the new "Oriental" candles made by the firm. They are made in tints to match fashionable art fabrics, such as coral, turquoise, eau de nil, &c., with self-fitting ends, and either spiral or plain.

PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION IN OPTICS.—Messrs. J. Raphael & Co., manufacturing opticians, have signalled the opening of their fine new premises at 51 Clerkenwell Road, E.C., by arranging a series of classes for the study of optics in the application of the science to sight testing and correcting. They have engaged Mr. Lionel Laurance to conduct the classes, and the instruction is so arranged as to give retailers of spectacles a thorough practical acquaintance with the branches of optics which will enable them to serve customers well and intelligently. Mr. Laurance has recently come from Canada, where he was principal of the Optical Institute, and his credentials from medical men and druggists show that he has the rare gift of ability to teach what he knows. He will have two courses, the "Primary" being the one which chemists will find suitable to their needs. This begins with the study of the anatomy and physiology of the eye, from which students will pass to the consideration of light and its properties. After this lenses will be studied, and the various disorders of sight which can be assisted or remedied by spectacles, and how to select and fit the latter, will be treated. The course will consist of twelve lessons, and Messrs. Raphael & Co. are now booking names so that the days and hours of the classes may be arranged. Two lessons may be taken daily, but the days need not be consecutive. The fee is 3/ 3s. Those who think of taking advantage of the course should communicate with the firm at once.

## New Companies and Company News.

T. B. LAWS (LIMITED).—Capital 12,000%, in 1% shares. Objects: To acquire the business of a mineral-water manufacturer carried on by James Johnson, under the style of "T. B. Laws & Co.," at 150 and 152 Burdett Road, Bow, E.

BRITISH PURE ACETYLENE GAS SYNDICATE (LIMITED).—Capital 50,000%, in 1% shares. Objects: To acquire any patents, patent rights, inventions, privileges, &c., relating to the production, treatment, storage, application and distribu-

tion of gas, and any apparatus therefor, and to carry on the business of acetylene-gas manufacturers, gas, mechanical and general engineers, manufacturing chemists, machinists, millwrights, &c. The first directors are Richard Ainscough, Robert Alexander, Frederick Dresser, Edward Paul, Hugh L. Smyth, Charles E. Talbot and James M. Wood. Remuneration, as the company may decide.

**APOLLINARIS SHARES TRUST (LIMITED).**—Capital 450,000*l.*, in 100*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire shares in the Apollinaris Company (Limited), to enter into an agreement with James Dixon, and to acquire, realise, exchange, surrender, or otherwise deal with the shares, stock, or debentures of any company or body carrying on the business of manufacturers of and dealers in mineral waters. The first directors (to number not fewer than three nor more than five) are:—Frederick W. Harris, Joseph B. Braithwaite, jun., Thomas Salt, and Edwin Waterhouse. Qualification, ten shares. Remuneration, 200*l.* each per annum and an extra 200*l.* for the chairman.

**MARKS' CURE SYNDICATE (LIMITED).**—Capital 1,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares (of which 200 are 10 per cent. cumulative Preference). Objects: To acquire the discoveries, remedies, or specifics of Henry Marks for the cure of gout, rheumatic-gout, lumbago, Bright's disease, diabetes, &c., and the recipes for making the same, and to manufacture, sell, and deal in patent and proprietary medicines. The first subscribers (each with one share) are:—Wm. Warriner, Kildown, Wheathill Road, Anerley, S.E., agent; John G. Hoey, 30 Rathcorle Avenue, Hornsey, agent; John Tucker, Broad Street, House, E.C., agent; William West, Devonshire Chambers, E.C., agent; Hugh Robertson, Tillotson Road, Lower Edmonton, chemist; Thomas G. Harvey, 1 Devonshire Chambers, Bishopsgate Street, E.C., agent; Henry Marks, 32 Draycott Place, Chelsea, S.W., gout-specialist. Thomas G. Harvey is to be the Managing-director. Registered Office, 1 Devonshire Chambers, Bishopsgate Street, E.C.

**BURNTISLAND OIL COMPANY (LIMITED).**—The report by the liquidator of this company, which has just been issued to the shareholders, states that the company was incorporated on March 25, 1893, under a scheme of reconstruction between the older company of the same name and its creditors with a nominal capital of 155,000*l.*, divided into 120,000 preference shares of 1*l.* each, and 35,000 ordinary shares of 1*l.* each. At the date of the liquidation, July 9, 1895, 111,223 preference shares and 34,000 ordinary shares had been issued as fully paid-up to creditors and shareholders of the old company. The assets of the company consist of the estate of Whinnyhall, &c., in the county of Fife, with buildings and private railway, and 10,065*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* in cash. The company's liabilities to others than the shareholders had been paid off, and it is now proposed to divide the balance by paying a first return of capital to the preference shareholders at the rate of 1*s.* 10*d.* per share on 111,583 shares. The estate of Whinnyhall, with the buildings thereon, and the private railway, have still to be realised, and a further payment will then be made to the preference shareholders. It is certain, however, that the ordinary shareholders can never hope to participate in the assets of the company.

**THE APOLLINARIS COMPANY.**—An Apollinaris Share Trust has been formed with a capital of 450,000*l.*, of which 280,000*l.* is now offered for subscription. It appears that Mr. George Smith, who with his family holds one half of the Apollinaris stock, has decided to realise a portion of his holding, and it is this which the Trust is to take over. The price at which the shares are to be purchased is not stated, but according to the certificate of Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co. on the basis of the 1895 profits the shares held by the Trust would have earned a return equivalent to a dividend of 9*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* per cent. It is proposed by the directors to set aside an amount which, accumulated at 3 per cent. per annum, will redeem the capital within the period of the Apollinaris Company's present contract, leaving a surplus sufficient to pay a dividend of 7 per cent. The certificate further sets forth that the profits of the years 1891, 1892, and 1893 show a continuous increase, and that the profits of 1895 were in excess of those in the years mentioned. It is stated besides that the sales on the first half of 1896 are considerably in excess of those for the corresponding period of 1895. The

Board is an influential one, including Mr. Thomas Salt, who is a director of Lloyds Bank, and Mr. Edwin Waterhouse, of the firm of Price, Waterhouse & Co., and the chairman is Mr. Fred W. Harris, a director of the Commercial Union Assurance Company.

**GOLDUND SILBER-SCHNEIDE ANSTALT.**—The twenty-fourth annual report of the German metallurgical works at Frankfort-on-Maine (Deutsche Gold und Silber-Schneide-Anstalt), presented to the shareholders at the annual meeting on October 6, states that although the gross profit for the year is larger than that for 1894-95—viz., 1,874,753*m.*, against 1,866,381*m.*—the net profit is slightly less, in consequence of certain extraordinary expenses amounting to about 250,000*m.* Hence there remains a net profit of 938,656*m.*, against 1,122,082*m.* in the previous year. The unusual expenses referred to have been principally caused by the writing off of the expenses for establishing a cyanide-of-potash factory in Pretoria (Transvaal), and the stoppage of the factory's melting works at Gmnend. With regard to the Transvaal cyanide-of-potassium factory (upon which we commented in an editorial in our issue of June 13), the report states that the company were compelled to establish this factory in order to prevent the entire Transvaal cyanide of potassium industry from being lost to the firm, because competing manufacturers had informed the Transvaal Government that cyanide of potassium would be made in the Transvaal, using crude material existing in the country, and had asked for a monopoly for its manufacture. The Frankfort works therefore decided to be first in the field, with the result that it has now been definitely proved that all raw materials must be imported, and that cyanide of potassium cannot be made profitably in the Transvaal. The Volksraad has been informed of the result of the experiment, and has been petitioned not to grant a monopoly concession, or to place a high Customs duty upon cyanide of potassium, which is a necessity for the local gold-mining industry. The whole of the money sunk in that undertaking—viz., 103,000*m.*—has therefore been written off as a dead loss. Referring to business operations generally, the works state that the firm's turnover for the year in chemicals made by the works amounted to 3,354,394*m.*, and in chemicals not manufactured by the works to 13,414,692*m.* The metallurgical section of the works has been fully employed, and the operations have resulted in a profit as large as that of the previous year. The company have commenced the manufacture of a new form of gold, known as sponge gold (schwammgold), which is specially intended for use for filling teeth. It is said to have been favourably received in dental circles, and much attention is now being paid to the article. Business in the chemical branch has been on the whole satisfactory, although special efforts have been necessary in order to maintain the company's position in the cyanide-of-potassium market. So many firms have now taken up the manufacture of this article that there is practically no profit left. The turnover of the ceramic section has been considerably increased, so much so that, although prices are generally very depressed, the profit has been slightly in excess of that of the preceding year. The manufacture of gold paint for ceramic purposes has become subject to such keen competition that sales must be made almost at the cost of the material. The various silver-mining companies in which the Frankfort works are interested have yielded fairly satisfactory results. The Roessler and Hasslacher Chemical Company in America has had a very good year, and the Frankfort works, in conjunction with that company, have commenced an electro-chemical factory at Niagara, which has recently begun operations by the manufacture of sodium preparations. With regard to the net profit of 938,656*m.*, the sum of 458,813*m.* is absorbed by the payment of interest on debentures. The ordinary shareholders will receive 12½ per cent dividend, 22,340*m.* will be carried forward, 35,000*m.* given as bonuses, and 47,502*m.* go towards various pension funds.

MRS. WHITE: "Oh, you have a new pair of glasses." MRS. GREENE: "Yes; when I went into the optician's I didn't know quite what to say when the young man asked me if I'd have conclave or complex, but I finally took a pair of peristaltic. The name sounded so genteel, you know, that I made up my mind at once to take them."

## Trade Reports.

42 CANNON STREET, E.C., October 22.

THERE has been a steady business in the drug and chemical markets, but pressure on our space prevents us from giving the usual summary. It may be mentioned, however, that the most important alteration of the week has been the reduction of about 25 per cent. in the price of salicylic acid and salicylates, announced this afternoon. The Bank rate was raised to-day from 3 per cent. to 4 per cent.

Our New York correspondent cables on Thursday afternoon:—"Curaçao aloes is distinctly firmer, although prices remain unchanged. All varieties of *Copaiba* Cablegram. balsam show a strong market. *Gum chicle* steady, at 22c. per lb. *Cod liver oil* of all grades is advancing, and the position seems extremely strong. *Mandrake-root* and *Jalap* are also quoted at higher rates, while *Senega* is  $\frac{1}{2}$ c. dearer for good quality, 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. per lb. being to-day's quotation. *Spermaceiti* has been raised 3c. per lb. for *American*. Fair bleached *American* beeswax  $\frac{1}{2}$ c. higher, 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. per lb. being asked. Native *Jamaica sarsaparilla* is now quoted at 19c. per lb."

Our Hamburg correspondent telegraphs on Thursday evening:—"Camphor very firmly held; 3.20m. is still to. Hamburg day's quotation for refined, but the tone is Telegram. firmer. *Star-anise* advancing, 2.10m. per kilo. being the price for genuine *Chinese* seed. There is a firmer feeling in *Senega root* and in *Japanese peppermint oil*."

Calling attention to the fact that the present price of tolu balsam is the highest of the past sixteen years, the *O. P. & D.* Tolu Balsam. Reporter observes that there is every reason for believing that prices will further advance, as the New York stock is light. Dealers have been supplying their customers for many months from old accumulated stocks. Some years ago there was an over-production, prices declined, and tolu has been neglected ever since. It is now said that there is no likelihood of any tolu balsam being gathered for some time to come, unless the continued maintenance of high prices should attract the attention of native gatherers. The high figures which have ruled for several months only brought forward two cases. Many years ago there was a large demand for tolu, but of late this has been on the decrease, owing to the displacement of tolu by chicle for making chewing-gum. For other uses tolu has held its own, and, should the gathering be on a moderate scale in the future, high prices may be maintained.

Ambergris, says the *C. & D. of Australasia*, is one of the prizes which occasionally falls to the lot of coastal residents in Australasia. Some months ago Messrs. S. G. Beckett and J. H. Ainsley picked up on the beach at New Plymouth (New Zealand) what was supposed to be a lump of ambergris. The analysts of the colony, it is said, pronounced it valueless, and the finders, believing the report, threw part of the lump into the river Huatoki, and buried the rest in a back garden. A portion was, however, sent to a manufacturing perfumer at Paris, who definitely pronounced it to be ambergris. The lump weighed about 48 lbs., and should have been worth at least 3,000l. Digging in the back garden has recovered part of it.

It is stated that the Imperial Japanese Department of Forestry has recently caused very extensive plantations of camphor trees to be made in the provinces of Camphor in Japan. Tosa, on the island of Shikoka, one of the southern islands of the Japanese group, and one where in the past camphor has grown most abundantly.

It is further stated that for the present it is not the intention of the Japanese Government to place a high Excise duty upon the camphor-industry in Japan or Formosa, as it is feared that if such were done a stimulus would be given to the exportation of camphor from the southern provinces of China and to the planting of the trees in foreign countries.

Some time ago we announced that the duty on honey in Germany had been increased to 45m. per 100 kilos., which is almost a prohibitory figure. The increased tax was imposed principally in order to please the sugar manufacturers, but the German honey consumers are now paying the penalty for it. The honey-crop in Germany this year has been an unusually small one, and at the recent conference of apiarists at Muensterberg it was unanimously decided to increase the price of honey to 2m. per kilo, which is more than three times that of last year. Honey consumers state that it is not possible for them to use German honey for manufacturing purposes at such a price.

ACID (CARBOLIC).—There is a firmer feeling all round for this article. The demand has been very good lately, and to-day's quotations are as follows:—*Crystals*, 34–35° C., 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., 39–40° C., 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.; *Crude*, 60 per cent., 1s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 75 per cent., 2s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per gallon, *Cresylic*, 95 per cent., 10d. to 11d. per gallon.

ACID (CITRIC).—Quiet. At 1s. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. for B.P. quality *Concentrated juice* offers at 13l. per pipe f.o.b.

ACID (OXALIC).—The combination quotations for oxalic acid and oxalates have now been officially issued. They show an advance of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. for all but large quantities, and are as follows: *Oxalic acid* in casks for lots under 1 ton 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.; 1-ton lots in one delivery 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 5-ton lots in two equal deliveries 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. net, delivered free in London. The terms for delivery at railway stations in the United Kingdom or f.o.b. are as follows—less than 2 tons 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.; 2 tons in one delivery 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 6 tons in three equal deliveries 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. net. Barrels and kegs are charged extra. *Powdered oxalic acid* is charged  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., *Powdered sal acetos*  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb., *Sal acetosella*, *neutral oxalate of potash*, and *double oxalic acid*, each 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. above the oxalic acid quotations. At present there does not appear to be any second-hand or outside supply below the convention rates. The latter have been fixed until the end of 1897.

ACID (SALICYLIC) AND SALICYLATES.—The market was startled to-day by the announcement of a fresh reduction in the price of salicylic acid, and of salicylates, amounting to about 25 per cent. all round. The news was not made known until 'Change time to-day, and there was a good deal of confusion with regard to the new quotations, the prices given to the various combination-agents by their principals varying from 4d. to 6d. per lb. After 'Change an informal conference was held between agents of the three chief manufacturers, with the result that the following quotations were arrived at: *Salicylic acid* in powder, small lots 1s. 10d.,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. 1s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2–5 cwt. 1s. 7d., 5–20 cwt. 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., ton lots 1s. 4d. per lb. Ditto in crystals: small lots 2s.,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. 1s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2–5 cwt. 1s. 9d., 5–20 cwt. 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., ton lots 1s. 6d. per lb. *Salicylate of soda*, in powder: small lots 2s.,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. 1s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2–5 cwt. 1s. 9d., 5–20 cwt. 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., ton lots 1s. 6d. per lb. *Salicylate of soda* in crystals, 6d. per lb. more than powder. *Salic. acid physiol. pure* (crystals): small lots, 3s. 10d.;  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. lots, 3s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 2–5 cwt., 3s. 7d.; 5–20 cwt., 3s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; ton lots, 3s. 4d. per lb. *Salicylate of soda, physiol. pure* (crystals) 4d. per lb. less than the acid. Delivery of  $\frac{1}{2}$ -cwt. lots may be taken within three, of 2–5-cwt. within six, and of larger quantities within twelve months. These figures are, it will be seen, equivalent to a reduction of about 4d. per lb. on salicylic acid, but the price of the physiologically pure article has not been reduced in the same proportion. All discounts have been abolished and the prices made net. The reduction clause, however, remains intact. No further reduction of this kind had been at all anticipated, especially as the crude material has lately been rather increasing in price. With regard to packages, 1-lb. paper parcels are free, 1-lb. cardboard boxes are charged 2d. extra, 7-lb. tins 2d. per lb. extra, and 1-lb. bottles 4d. extra. For 14 lb. parcels a reduction is made of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.,

and for 1-cwt. kegs of 1d. per lb. One "outside" maker quotes the same prices, excepting for phys. pure acid, for which he asks 2d. more, and for phys. pure salicylate of soda, for which he asks 4d. more, than the convention rates.

**ACID (TARTARIC).**—English B.P. is still quoted at 1s. 2d. per lb. by the makers, but the tendency of the article is dull, and foreign brands offer at 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 1s. 1d. per lb.

**ARSENIC.**—English *White powder* is about 10s. easier, 22l. per ton being to-day's spot quotation.

**ATROPINE.**—Remains extremely scarce, at last week's advanced quotations. The manufacturers report that they have difficulty in keeping deliveries up to time, and that any further change is likely to be in a higher direction.

**BALSAM TOLU.**—Fine "old-fashioned" tolu balsam is reported to have been sold this week at 3s. per lb., and at least one holder is now reported to be standing out for 3s. 6d. per lb. Bright, hard balsam is offering at 3s. per lb.

**BUCHU.**—There has been an arrival of 12 bales by the *Dunottar Castle* and of 4 packages by the *Athenian*, both from Cape Town. The exports of buchu-leaves from Cape Colony were :—

In 1894, 139,946 lbs., value 1829l.

In 1895, 86,603 lbs., value 15,062l.

**CAMPHOR (CRUDE).**—The market has been moderately active this week so far as *Formosa* gum is concerned, of which several hundred piculs have changed hands for October-November shipment at prices rising from 106s. to 108s. per cwt., c.i.f. terms. The closing quotation is between 108s. and 110s., c.i.f., with buyers at the lower figure. In *Japan* camphor small spot sales were made a few days ago at 125s. per cwt.

**CANARY-SEED** has had a considerable fall, as it is stated that further heavy shipments of *Turkish* seed will be made. It must, however, be kept in view that the new-crop season has now begun, and that heavy shipments at this time of the year are not at all unusual. To-day's price is from 31s. to 32s. per 464 lbs. *Spanish* and *Moroccan* canary-seed are firmly held, at from 46s. to 52s. for ordinary, and from 57s. up to 65s. for fine to superior *Spanish*, and from 34s. to 36s. 6d. for *American*. *River Plate* seed is considerably dearer, 26s. to 27s. being to-day's quotation.

**CARAWAY-SEED** is held for steady rates. From 21s. to 23s. per cwt for good to fine quality on the spot.

**CASCARA SAGRADA.**—The market is in a very uncertain position, but the feeling is weak. Some holders ask 19s. per cwt. for good bright quality on the spot, but they cannot sell at that figure at present.

**COCAINE.**—The refined article is unchanged. Crude *South American* cocaine continues to arrive freely, and sales are being made at from 8s. to 8s. 6d. per oz. on the basis of 100 per cent. The exports of crude cocaine from Peru to all parts during the past five years are officially given as follows :—

Years	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894
Kilos.	1,730	3,215	4,550	2,357	4,716

And those of coca-leaves thus :—

Years	1891	1892	1893	1894
Kilos.	123,543	388,465	390,955	372,360

**COCA-LEAVES** are still in considerable supply, but the bulk of the stock is of inferior quality. Good green *Bolivian* leaves have been sold privately this week at 11d. per lb.

**CREAM OF TARTAR.**—Decidedly firmer. Best white *French* crystals are generally held for 85s. per cwt., though perhaps 84s. 6d. might still be taken. *Powder* is quoted at 87s. to 88s. per cwt., according to brand.

**ERGOT OF RYE.**—Common wormy *Spanish* may be had at 4d. per lb. on the spot; for good *Russian* the quotations vary greatly. There are holders who profess to be unwilling to sell below 1s. per lb.

**FENUGREEK-SEED.**—Considerably dearer. It is reported that the *Moroccan* crop is a failure, and that next to nothing will be available from India. Good *Moroccan* quality is quoted to-day at 10s. 3d. to 10s. 6d. per lb.

**GENTIAN-ROOT** continues in strong demand, but there is very little offering, and whatever comes to hand is eagerly bought up at high prices.

**GLYCERINE.**—Extremely firm. As yet there has been no advance in the quotations, but it seems not unlikely that prices will be put up shortly.

**INSECT-FLOWERS.**—Very firmly held; fine "closed" are quoted up to 170s. per cwt., f.o.b.; for "half-closed" the quotations run from 120s. to 145s. per cwt., f.o.b., but some of ordinary quality may still be had on the spot at 115s. per cwt. For "open" flowers the price is from 93s. to 100s. per cwt. on the spot, or from 95s. to 97s., f.o.b.

**IODINE.**—Out of 74 nitrate "oficinas" operating on the west coast of South America in 1895 only 24 produced iodine, their total output being 173,136 kilos., against 597,338 kilos. in 1893. The exports were 151,401 kilos. in 1895, against 330,250 in 1894 and 592,038 in 1893. The consumption in Europe and United States in 1895 is estimated at 234,232 kilos., at an average selling price of 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. to the producer, and the cost of production at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. delivered in Europe. The stocks on December 31, 1895, were 1,056,753 kilos. (1,056 tons), against 1,191,884 kilos. at the end of 1894. There is now sufficient iodine in stock for more than four years' consumption.

**IRECACUANHA.**—Some business has been done privately in fair natural *Brazilian* root, at 5s. 9d. to 5s. 10d. per lb. A parcel of *Colombian* bought in at the last auction has since changed hands at steady rates—viz., from 4s. 1d. to 4s. 3d. per lb., according to the degree of damage.

**JABORANDI.**—Three consignments, amounting together to 218 packages, have been received by the *Brunswick* from Marauham. Fifty-one packages are in transit. We are informed that the samples of this consignment are almost exclusively of small leaves, probably poor in alkaloid, and that so far only one bag of nice large leaves has been found among them.

**JALAP** shows a rather better tendency. Good quality *Vera Cruz* is not offering below 7d. per lb. on the spot, or 6d. per lb. c.i.f. from New York, and fair *Vera Cruz* has been sold in London at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. this week.

**MENTHOL.**—A few days ago sales were made on the spot at the revised price of 7s. 6d. per lb. Since then, however, the market has become rather firmer, and it is said that to day 8s. per lb. is the lowest spot quotation.

**MUSK.**—Extremely quiet. In some quarters 74s. to 75s. per oz. is still asked for best blue skin first-pile *Tonquin* musk, but it would, no doubt, be possible to buy at 72s. 6d. per oz.

**OIL (CASTOR).**—*Italian* oil remains very scarce and firmly held, at prices ranging from 38s. to 40s. per cwt. on the spot, according to brand. It is said that it is extremely difficult to procure home-grown seed for crushing in Italy, and that a further advance in high-class oil must, therefore, be anticipated. *French* medicinal oil may still be had at 34s. per cwt. on the spot; and first-pressings at 26s., f.o.b., for November shipment. *Mitchell's* English-drawn oil is also unchanged. *East Indian* oil, however, is if anything slightly weaker.

**OIL (CHAULMOOGRA).**—There have been no arrivals lately, and the article shows some tendency towards firmer rates. The present price for fair quantities from jobbers is 2s. 9d. to 2s. 10d. per lb.

**OIL (CITRONELLA).**—Firm for arrival; fair sales for shipment within the next four months are reported at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., c.i.f. terms, which is an advance of 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. from the lowest point recently touched. On the spot 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d. is asked for. Since the late boom in the price of citronella oil the Sinhalese in the Galle district of Ceylon have applied themselves to the extensive cultivation of citronella-grass. Plantations are springing up daily in Gangebodde Pattu, Akmimane, and Talpe Pattu. The area under cultivation last year in Galle, according to Mr. Elliott's Administration Report, was about 1,500 acres, but it will no doubt be greatly increased by the plantation-extensions of the current year.

**OIL (COD-LIVER).**—In slight demand, but firmly held. Last week's prices are practically unchanged—viz., from

170s. to 180s. per barrel, on the spot, for non-congealing Lototen.

**OILS (ESSENTIAL).**—There has been a sort of speculative raid upon *Star-anise* oil since our last report. Early in the week business was done at a reduction of from 7½d. to 9d. per lb., sales being reported at 8s. 4½d., and afterwards as low as 8s. 3d. per lb. At these figures, however, speculators appear to have bought up the entire available supply, and immediately afterwards the quotation was again raised to 9s., while to-day it is reported that 9s. 3d. per lb. has been paid for a fair quantity. The *Liformosa* has brought 36 cases of *Cassia* oil from Hong Kong, and the *San Mackinnon* 126 packages of *Citronella*, 304 cases of *Lemon-grass*, and 13 cases of *Cinnamon oil* from Ceylon and Cochin. Other arrivals of essential oils include 10 cases of *Star-anise* oil from Hamburg. *Oil of cassia* is scarce, especially for high-grade qualities on the spot, and the prices all round are higher. A fair amount of business has been done, the closing-prices being 60 per cent., 8s.; 75 to 80 per cent., 8s. 6d.; 85 per cent., of which very little can be had, 9s. per lb. *Lemon-grass* steady, with business for shipment within the next three months at 1½d. to 1¾d. per oz., c.i.f. terms, showing a somewhat higher market. New *Italian oil of lemon* offers at from 3s. 9d. per lb., c.i.f. (which is said to be Hammett's new quotation), downwards, to 2s. 6d. per lb., c.i.f. terms. We hear that considerable contracts have lately been made in *Otto of rose* at the reduced figures, and that the stock is now almost all in firm hands. Reports from Constantinople say that it is not probable that there will be any further reduction on the present rates. The demand for *Eucalyptus oil* appears to have somewhat improved lately; 1s. 3d. per lb. is now said to be the bottom price for any kind. It is reported that *American peppermint oil* is somewhat firmer. It is said that there is no more HGH oil to be had at 7s. 6d. per lb., and that 7s. 9d. is now the lowest price. *Wayne County oil*, which was offering at 4s. 9d. per lb. for quantities, is now quoted at 5s. per lb. for such, and at 5s. 3d. for 5-case lots. One American shipper has received a cablegram announcing an advance in *Sassafras oil* from 1s. 9d. to 2s. 2d. per lb., c.i.f.

**OPIUM.**—The market for *Turkish opium* remains extremely dull for all varieties, and scarcely any sales are reported. There is no doubt, however, that business could only be done at considerably reduced rates, but the holders do not appear to care to make sacrifices. The present quotations rule from 11s. 6d. to 13s. 6d. for good to fine *Soft-shipping*. *Smyrna* grades are held for from 9s. to 9s. 6d. for good to fine, and from 8s. 3d. to 8s. 9d. for *Druggists' seconds*. Ordinary to fine *Constantinople* is quoted from 8s. 9d. to 9s. 6d. per lb. The only feature of interest in the market has been the continued small sales of common to fair qualities of *Persian opium*, at from 8s. to 9s. per lb., according to morphia content. This opium, it appears, is unsuitable for shipment to China, and must therefore be sold for manufacturing purposes. Good to fine *Persian* is quoted at from 10s. to 11s. 6d. per lb.

**ORRIS.**—Very firmly held, at from 68s. to 72s. 6d. for good to best picked *Florentine*, c.i.f. terms. Common to good sorts offer at from 61s. 6d. to 63s. per cwt., c.i.f.

**PILOCARPINE** is offering at lower rates, and there is every indication that the heavy arrivals of jaborandi-leaves will tend to depress the market still further. German makers ask 85s. per oz., but we hear that a French firm is soliciting offers at as low a figure as 65s. per oz.

**PODOPHYLLIN.**—It is doubtful whether English (B.P. podophyllin) could still be had at 9s. per lb. this week. A German importer assures us that he has sold B.P. quality in ½-cwt. lots as high as 9s. 9d. per lb., and that he is now unwilling to sell anything below 11s. He admits, however, that he is not able to obtain the last-named price.

**POTASH-SALTS.**—*Permanganate* is again somewhat firmer in second-hand. For small crystals 75s. per cwt. is said to have been paid this week for prompt delivery. *Bichromate* offers at 4½d. per lb. on the spot, *English Yellow prussiate* at 6½d. per lb. *Chlorate* quiet, at 4d. on the spot and for next year.

**QUICKSILVER.**—Very firm, at 6l. 12s. 6d. per bottle from the importers, and 6l. 11s. 6d. to 6l. 12s. from second-hand.

**QUININE**—Easier. At the end of last week sales of 30,000 to 40,000 oz. were reported at 10½d. to 10¾d. per oz. Since then the market has been quiet and dull, 10½d. to 10¾d. per oz. being to-day's quotation.

**RHUBARB.**—Some business at fairly steady prices is reported, and one importer asserts that he has privately obtained an advance on the last drug-sale rates. The remainder of a parcel of medium flat *Canton*, part of which sold at the last drug-auctions at 1s. 1d. per lb., has been disposed of at the same figure, however.

**SAFFRON** is again much dearer. On Friday and Saturday last some of the importers received information of an advance in Valencia equal to 4s. per lb. on the best qualities, and to-day the quotations for superior to finest *Valencia* may be placed at from 36s. to 39s. 6d. per lb., and for ordinary to fair, from 33s. to 35s. per lb. The new crop is not expected to be available before the end of November, and it is generally said that it will be extremely small.

**SARSAPARILLA.**—Since last week's drug-sales a small parcel of genuine grey *Jamaica* root has been sold at 1s. 11d. per lb., a price which could not be obtained in sale. For sound *Lima Jamaica* 1s. 4d. per lb. has been paid, which is a full price. The *Don* has brought 37 packages this week from Panama and Colon. There has also been an arrival of 12 bales from New York.

**SCAMMONY.**—There have been considerable arrivals of *Turkish resin* and of *root*, but the market is very dull. First *Virgin Turkish* is quoted at 30s. per lb.; second at from 18s. to 24s., but the prices are more or less nominal. Some business in fair "Skilip" is reported to have been done lately at 10s. 6d. per lb. *Roots* in fair supply at 27s. 6d. to 32s. 6d. nominally.

**SENEGAL** is advancing rather briskly. This morning 1s. 3½d. per lb. was asked on the spot for good quality, but some importers state that they would not sell below 1s. 4d. It is said that one of the American agents has been selling a considerable parcel to arrive at as low as 11d. per lb., c.i.f. terms lately, and from another quarter the quotation still runs from 1s. 1½d. to 1s. 2d. per lb., c.i.f., according to quality.

**SHELLAC.**—At auction this week a fair supply sold at an advance of 1s. per cwt. for second orange—viz., 74s. to 78s. per cwt. for common blocky red livery; and 81s. to 82s. per cwt. for fair reddish. Privately 84s. per cwt. has been paid for fine *AC Garnet*. The market closes rather firmer, with buyers of orange TN, November-January shipment, at 77s. 6d. per cwt., c.i.f. terms.

**SPIRMACEYL.**—It is reported from America that the price has been raised 1d. per lb. for *American refined*.

**SULPHUR.**—Slightly firmer prices are quoted—viz., 6l. per ton for foreign flowers, and 5l. 15s. for *disto roll sulphur*.

**TEA.**—The Indian and Ceylon markets alike show great firmness this week. Pekoes under 8d. and Pekoe Scunchongs under 7d. are in many cases ¼d. per lb. dearer, and good broken Pekoes, both Indian and Ceylon, are selling at very full prices. The fact is that as far as Assams are concerned country buyers are hungry and want to buy, but are afraid to go into stock for fear of the very heavy sales usual at this time of the year and consequent lower prices; but supplies have of late been on so moderate a scale that Blenders and Packet Houses have been compelled to keep up the market in supplying their own needs, and instead of easier prices we have lately seen firmer rates. When people are bare of stock and want to buy it is difficult to get the market down, and some of those who are waiting so patiently for lower rates may find that they have for the present missed their market.

**VANILLIN.**—Competition in this product, as in most artificial odorous bodies of its kind, is becoming keener every year. The limited nature of the consumption of the article and the increase in its output have recently caused manufacturers further to reduce their quotations.

**WAX (JAPAN).**—The almost entire available stock in London is now in the hands of one dealer, who offers at 52s. 6d. per cwt. on the spot, for fair pale quality, but states that he has made no sales this week. At about 4s. above this price it is said that the article could be profitably im-

ported from Holland and Havre, where fair stocks still appear to exist. For arrival the quotations are still easier—viz., 40s. to 39s. 6d. per cwt., c.i.f., for November-December shipment.

#### The Market in Heavy Chemicals.

A much better tone pervades the heavy-chemical market all round, although as yet there is no general improvement in prices to be notified. There is a better demand to be reported from the United States, and a very steady business is being done for home consumption. Shipments also have been moderately heavy, in view of the early closing of northern ports. Buyers are showing a greater inclination to cover their next year's requirements, and some fair contracts have lately been booked. *Bleaching-powder* is in heavier demand both for home and export. *Ammonia alkali* is firm. *Caustic soda* is steady, although, perhaps, highest strengths are not moving quite so briskly as of late. *Alum* is in better demand, as is also *Sulphate of alumina* of best qualities for papermakers' and dyers' use. *Recovered sulphur* maintains its firm position, and is still rather scarce. *Benzols* are rather flat, and quotations have dropped; they are now as follows:—90 per cent. prompt, 4s. 6d.; November-December delivery 4s. 4½d.; January-June, 3s. 10½d. to 4s.; 50 per cent. prompt, 3s. 3d.; November-December delivery, 3s. 1½d.; January-June, 2s. 10d. A further decline in prices for *Sulphate of ammonia* is also to be reported: Beckton terms, 7l 2s. 6d.; Leith, 7l. to 7l 2s. 6d.; Hull, 7l 2s. 6d. to 7l 5s.; London, 7l. 7s. 6d. There is, however, a rather better demand, and from Leith last week 338 tons were exported. *Carbolic acids* are steady. *Naphthas* are a trifle lower, and not much is being done for next year, present low prices not being enough for manufacturers. Miscible and solvent woods are both quoted 2s. 8d. to 2s. 10d. *Sulphate of copper* in better request. White powdered *Arsenic* somewhat easier, as is also *Yellow prussiate of potash*. *Chlorates* dull, with downward tendency. *Cottonseed cakes* dull, and a trifle lower. *Linseed cakes*, however, are firmer, and in good demand. *Cream of tartar* firmer; powdered, 87s. to 88s.; crystals, 84s. 6d. to 85s. Both best Lancashire makes *Green copperas* continue firm and in heavy demand. The former is now quoted 39s. to 40s., f.o.b. Liverpool.

#### The Liverpool Drug-market.

Our Liverpool correspondent, writing on October 21, reports that there is a far better tone in the markets, and a much greater disposition to operate on the part of buyers. *Castor oil* has been selling freely during the week, and although 3d. per lb. is still the price of good seconds Calcutta, Madras good seconds, and first pressure French, holders show little disposition to let their stocks go in any quantity, and there is every prospect of a further advance at an early date. A parcel of fair seconds Bombay was sold at 21½d. per lb., but no more is to be had at the price. *Fennugreek seeds* have become very scarce, and sales of Bombay have been made at 9s. 6d. per cwt., with no Alexandrian offering at the moment. In *Beeswax*, considerable sales have been made, one parcel of fair to fine Chilian numbering 84 sacks, was sold at 6l. 16s. 6d. per cwt., and further parcels at auction were withdrawn for 7l. to 7l 5s. per cwt. *African beeswax* is in small supply and unchanged in value. *Honeys* are commanding more attention, and sales of liquid amber, Californian, are being made in the neighbourhood of 35s. to 36s. per cwt., while candied Chilian has changed hands in quantity at 21s. 6d. to 26s. per cwt., according to quality. A parcel of 55 cases of Hawaiian was offered at auction, and held for 18s. per cwt. *Kola nuts* are more inquired for and in smaller supply, sales have been made at 4d. per lb., and now holders talk of 5d. for good dry. *Guinea grains* are arriving slowly; some holders now talk of 20s. per cwt. *Culabar-beans* have been selling at 1½d. per lb. and there are still sellers at the price. *Irish moss*, steady at 5l. to 10l., according to quality. Soudan sorts of *Gum acacia* are unchanged in value or position. Sellers are prepared to accept about 67s. 6d. for fair medium quality, but buyers simply look on, and inquiries are few in number. Medium qualities are very scarce. *Scammony root*: At auction, a recent import was bought in at 27s. 6d. per cwt.

#### The Hamburg Drug market.

Our Hamburg correspondent writes, on October 20:—"Business on our drug-market continued quiet last week, and there have not been many changes of prices. *Aloes (Cape)* is almost unchanged at 48 n. to 50 m. per 100 kilos. *Arsenic* continues very firm; red is quoted 51 m. per 100 kilos. *Antimony* unchanged, and firm at 37 m. to 38 m. per 100 kilos. *Balsam Peru* is firm at 16 m. per kilo. *Balsam capiba* steady at 330 m. to 375 m. per kilo. *Balsam tolu* firm at 6 m. to 7 m. per kilo. *Borax* is steady; the manufacturers ask 40 m. per 100 kilos. for refined. *Camphor (refined)*, 320 m. per 100 kilos.; December, 315 m. per 100 kilos. *Chlorate of potash* 76 m. to 78 m. per 100 kilos. *Cantharides* are firmly held at 400 m. to 420 m. per 100 kilos. *Cascara sagrada* quiet, 32 m. per 100 kilos. *Cassia lignea* is firm; new crop held at 33 n. per 100 kilos. *Cinnamon* is very firmly held; the parity of 10d. per lb. is asked for average quality. *Cubebs* are neglected, and without demand. *Ergot of rye* is firm; 90 n. to 95 m. per 100 kilos; new crop, 110 m. per 100 kilos. *Gum acacia* steady, but buyers still hold back. *Honey* is in better demand for Californian and Australian qualities. *Kola nuts* are firm at 75 m. to 80 m. per 100 kilos. *Menthol* is very quiet, spot at 16 m. to 17 m., shipment at 15 m. per kilo. *Castor oil* seems a little easier, 55 m. per 100 kilos. has been accepted for first-pressing. *Cod-liver oil* is quiet but steady at 160 m. to 170 m. for non-congealing in barrel. *Rape oil* very firm at 53 m. per 100 kilos. in barrels. *Oil of cassia* extremely scarce and dearer. *Citronella oil* also much firmer, with little offering. *Star-anise oil* is somewhat easier, to-day's quotation is 20 m. per kilo. *Peppermint oil (Japan)* firmer and quoted at 6½ m. per kilo. for shipment; American HGH is quiet at 7½ m. to 7¾ m. per lb.; Todd at 7½ m. per lb. *Opium* remains quiet at 20½ m. per kilo.

#### Cod-liver Oil in Norway.

Our Bergen correspondent writes on October 17: "Business in our market remains very quiet, and there has been no improvement in price. The quotations still remain at 165s. per barrel, f.o.b., for best non-congealing *Lofoten*, and 5s. less for best *Finnmarken* quality. The exports from Bergen for the season, up to date, amount to 4,460 barrels, against 4,685 barrels at the corresponding date of 1895."

#### The Smyrna Opium-market.

Our Smyrna correspondent writes on October 13:—"For nearly three weeks our market was very dull, not a single case having been sold, and needy holders were getting desperate for want of funds; which obliged many of them to make offers at lower values. Upon the price touching 8s. 6d. for new current, one of our large American buyers came forward and bought last week over 200 cases, paying the following prices:—New Current tale quale, 8s. 6d. to 8s. 7d.; new Yerli tale quale, 8s. 7d. to 8s. 8d.; old selected material, 8s. 8d. per lb. At these figures the same buyer yesterday again secured other 35 cases. We think he wants another 50 or 60 cases to complete the order; but it is with great difficulty that he can induce sellers to offer more at present values. We believe prices have reached the lowest point, for now weak dealers, being well supplied with necessary money to go on with their business, will not care for the present to sell any more unless at higher rates. If no business is done for another month or so, we may see by that time an easy market for current at 8s. 6d."

**SUPPLY AND DEMAND.**—Mr. Chauncey Depew, the American orator, has discovered that the price of a commodity is not always ruled by demand and supply. This is how he found it out. The other day he stepped up to a German butcher, and out of curiosity asked, "What's the price of sausages?" "Twenty cents a pound," said the German. "You asked twenty-five this morning," Mr. Depew replied. "Ya, dot vos ven I had some. Now I ain't got none, I sell him for twenty cents. Dot makes me a reputation for selling cheap and I don't lose nothing." "You see," said Mr. Depew, relating the incident, "I didn't want any sausage, and the man didn't have any; no demand and no supply, and still the price of sausage went down five cents a pound."



### Memoranda for Correspondents.

*In letters for publication correspondents are requested to express their views as concisely as possible.*

*Correspondents should write on one side of the paper only, and devote a separate piece of paper to each subject of inquiry.*

*The name and address of the writer should accompany all communications with, if desired, a distinctive nom-de-plume.*

### Mr. Brudenell Carter on English.

SIR,—My attention has been called to two letters in your last issue, and also to some editorial remarks in a former number, to which, with your permission, I would like to say a word in reply.

Mr. Bell credits me with supposing that "reliable" is "the very crown and summit of vulgar ignorance." Such a view might not possibly be maintained, but he will not find it in my address. I think there was some expression of the kind in a rough draft which I sent to the printer, but it was afterwards erased, and was not delivered to the meeting. Mr. Bell's knowledge of it must have been derived from an unrevised proof, a document for which no author can be held to be responsible.

In the proof which I revised I omitted to insert a passage which I delivered verbally, and in which I said that the greatest sinners against the purity and correctness of English were politicians, whose speeches are now only too much reported, and whose apparent object is often to string words together in sufficient order to form sentences which, when formed, shall be found to convey no particular meaning. In this connection, I was amused by your own reference to Mr. Gladstone, as having used "reliable." In the autobiography of Mr. Locker-Lampson, lately published, he relates a conversation with the late Dean Stanley, who said that he had very often talked to Mr. Gladstone, but had never been able to influence him. Then, correcting himself, he added: "Yes, I did influence him once, for I induced him to leave off saying or writing 'reliable.' He admitted that the argument against it was unanswerable." Your reference to his usage must therefore be open to correction by his later practice; even apart from the consideration that I have never heard it suggested that anything which Mr. Gladstone has written will live.

Mr. Bell is mistaken in supposing that "unaccountable, available, and laughable" are "formed from neuter verbs." "To account, to avail, and to laugh" are all active verbs as well as neuter ones, and illustrations of their use in both forms are given by Johnson. In my short address I could not be expected to mention that there are a few exceptions to a general rule. The word "capable," for example, is not formed from an English verb at all, but comes to us through the French, from post-classical Latin. I do not know any instance of the termination in "able" being derived from a neuter verb.

"H.R." wishes to know in what sense I used the word "official." At the time of which I was speaking, the preparations made according to the Pharmacopœia were styled "official," that is, they were such as ought to be kept in shops. Now that the book possesses Parliamentary authority, it is more correct to describe the preparations as "official." I surrender the word "exhibit" without defence; but then I do not think I have ever used it in the way to which your correspondent rightly objects.

If I may trespass upon your space to add one word on the general question, I would say that I regard the English language as almost the noblest inheritance which we have received from our forefathers, and as one which it is our duty to hand down, in undiminished vigour and clearness, to our descendants. I think we have no right to alter it out of recognition, or to convert it into a jumble of meaningless words and incoherent phrases. I think it is too valuable to be used at all, save in irresponsible chatter, by any who do

not at least endeavour to use it well. I should like to know whether Mr. Bell regards his own letter as having gained in force or cogency by his employment of the phrase "go the whole hog." This is the sort of thing which I had in my mind when I spoke of the "phraseology of a charwoman."

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

R. BRUDENELL CARTER.

SIR,—The thanks of all pharmacists are due to Dr. Brudenell Carter for his address given at Bloomsbury Square last week, and to yourself for your excellent report of it. I trust we shall derive profit from the study of Dr. Carter's speech, and carefully avoid the slipshod vulgarities which pass for English among the majority of our compatriots. For my own part I hope I shall never again use such expressions as "under the circumstances," to which I plead guilty. I should, however, be glad to have further light on the use of "reliable," a word found in some of our best dictionaries, and certainly occurring very frequently on the labels and handbills of the pharmacist. Dr. Brudenell Carter gives us the rule that "in English, words with the termination 'able' can only be formed from active verbs." If so, we must condemn the following:—actionable, marketable, pleasurable, remarkable, saleable, and serviceable. And their place will not easily be filled. Yours very truly,

Penge, October 12.

W. H. VERNON.

[The above letter was unavoidably crowded out last week.]

SIR,—Having thanked Mr. Brudenell Carter in the *Pharmaceutical Journal* with, shall I say, just ever so slight a *souperon* of diffusiveness, for laying down the law by which "reliable" stands condemned as a "meaningless" American coinage, I now tender thanks no less heartily to Mr. Bell for showing cause why it is a law we are not bound to observe. "Never give reasons" was the advice an old judge once gave to a young one. Mr. Brudenell Carter gave his reason, on which Mr. Bell pounced, and now I am going to pounce, in my turn, on Mr. Bell. If, as he alleges, "rely" were a compound of Latin and English, it would indeed be a barbarous coinage. He has only to consult Cassell's French and English dictionary, to discover a better derivation in "Relier, *v.a.*, to hoop (casks); to bind (books)." A "reliable" man, therefore, is one we can hoop round, bind, or otherwise constrain. Some purists object to this use of the word because, while as an adjective it is attached to what Coleridge would call the object, it really belongs to the subject. The man who is *able* to rely is the one we ought to call reliable, and not the man on whom he relies. Be that as it may, I believe we shall all think with Mr. Bell that "we may go on using the word 'reliable' when it is convenient to do so."

Yours faithfully,

Ely, October 21.

LINCOLNE, SEN.

SIR,—Mr. Brudenell Carter's address has drawn attention to a matter of absorbing interest, and it is to be regretted that so laudable an effort should be made the subject of invidious comment. To me, Mr. Carter does not seem to imply any wish to prevent Mr. C. C. Bell from using the word "reliable" if he so choose, even without the sanction of Coleridge, Stuart Mill and Dr. Newman.

Mr. Carter merely emphasises the fact that "reliable" is a word irregularly formed, and perhaps he would include the words in Mr. C. C. Bell's list in the same category.

Originally, words ending in "able" were anglicised forms of Latin adjectives in "bilis," as laudable from *laudabilis*. These adjectives were formed only from active verbs.

Having become naturalised, the suffix was employed to form new words by attachment to old Anglo-Saxon active verbs. In this manner we obtain such words as "eatable," "lovable," &c., the termination still retaining its original significance.

It was only when the suffix came to be imperfectly understood, from the very ignorance Mr. Carter deprecates, that such monstrosities as "reliable" and "unaccountable" were coined, and these mistakes arose from familiarity with the suffix, and, at the same time, incomplete comprehension of its true meaning and application.

Therefore, I take it, Mr. Carter's teaching is that of a

true lover of his language, who would see not only words but suffixes used in their right sense; and who would stimulate the study of our mother tongue, that mistakes such as these may be avoided in the future, and purity of language preserved.

I am, &c.,

October 21.

LIBER. (203/50.)

#### Déclat and Lister.

SIR,—In your issue of yesterday's date you ask the question, "What has become of Déclat?" Of late years little has been heard of the inventor of antiseptic treatment, and in all probability he has given up the struggle for recognition, hoping to receive in the next world the meed of praise which has been denied him in this, if, haply, medical questions have any *locus* on the other side of the grave. But in former years he made protests vigorous enough, and with very good reason. In 1882 Dr. Marion Sims, at a meeting of the Academy of Medicine of New York, ascribed the invention of antiseptic treatment to Lister, whereupon Déclat addressed a letter to the President of the Academy claiming the honour for himself. He says in this letter that he sent a copy of his book on "Carbolic Acid," published in 1865, to Sir J. Y. Simpson in Edinburgh, and he maintains that this (not sewage) was the source of Lister's information on the subject. Lister first used carbolic acid in 1867—that is, six years after it had been in use by Déclat. The facts were also communicated by Déclat to Simpson by letter, and this led Simpson to accuse Lister of plagiarism. Moreover, Pasteur himself, in his "Études sur la Bière," 1876, page 44, says:—"Dr. Déclat has founded a complete treatment of infectious diseases on the employment of one of the best of antiseptics—carbolic acid." In the official report of the Academy of Sciences of Paris of March 11, 1878, Professor Sédillot ascribed to Dr. Déclat the priority of the invention of the antiseptic method. In the face of these facts, some acknowledgment of Déclat's claims is surely called for on the part of Sir Joseph Lister.

Your obedient servant,

30 Clarges Street, W.,  
October 18.

JOHN H. CLARKE, M.D.

#### The Purity-tests for Otto of Rose.

SIR,—The interest of our otto-of-rose industry induces me to refer to the article, "The Otto-of-rose Market," in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of September 19 last.

The contents of that article are to the point, and have my approbation, with the exception of one assertion—viz, that an otto of a freezing-point below 65° F. "may safely be suspected of being adulterated."

No connoisseur will seriously dare to assert that every otto freezing below 65° F. is *ipso facto* adulterated and to be rejected. For a great number of otto-producing localities in our country this would inevitably lead to entire ruin of the industry, without, however, in the least putting a stop to the sophisticating business; for it has long been an open secret that a very large proportion of the high-freezing oils are, by the well-known manipulation in distilling, artificially brought up to a very high crystallisation-point, far beyond 70° F., and may then safely be adulterated, and yet still retain a satisfactory average degree.

It is an indisputable fact that the variations in the freezing-points of the otto may, according to its origin and production, be as much as 10–11° F. without prejudice to the purity, and that freezing-point should only be considered a stepping-stone for judging the quality jointly with other testing-methods.

A further fact is that a large number of low-freezing oils (the talk is only of unexceptionable and pure otto) are classified by all connoisseurs among the very finest in point of sweetness and aroma. Such oils are in most cases used to mix with high-freezing oils, which often turn out less satisfactory in aroma, and they are for this purpose greatly esteemed, and sought not only by the old otto-dealers, but also by the younger competitors.

The Bulgarian correspondent of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST certainly does not act in the true interests of our otto-industry, or as a patriot, in trying to depress the long-acknowledged value of the many good oils among the low-freezing ones.

In the preface of the above report from the Bulgarian correspondent reference is made to the younger section in the Bulgarian otto-trade and their aims.

Whether the activity of the younger, but more enterprising, houses will bring forth any desirable feature in the true interests of our otto-industry, and, therefore, national interests, remains to be seen. Meanwhile, the exorbitant prices of the preceding years as against formerly, and the ever-increasing adulteration, remain a subject for serious consideration.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

AN OLD HAND. (190/95.)

Philippopolis, Bulgaria, October 12/29.

#### The Proprietary-articles Trade.

SIR,—I for one think manufacturers of patents, &c., are standing in their own light who are not protecting the profits of their articles. Take the Midlands, where in any fair-sized town there is more than one store, and the competition between them is such that well-known articles are being sold at actually less than cost, no matter how well bought. The consequence is that the ordinary chemist has to look on, simply because he cannot afford to sell to lose. At the same time, he is gradually getting rid of those articles with the intention of not stocking again. When the chemist shall have given up holding such goods the stores will follow suit, and give up vending goods of no benefit. A store manager told me this week that his firm did not value any man who could not sell their own preparations at the rate of one in three for every article inquired for.

Yours very truly,

October 17.

HOPS. (199/52.)

SIR,—It is attractive advertising that creates the demand and brings the public to the shop, and when they see the price advertised is 1s. 1½d. or 2s. 9d. they are willing to pay these prices, especially for the newer preparations, and almost invariably tender full prices, without questioning, for them.

In my opinion manufacturers should so advance the wholesale terms that the goods could not be sold for less than the marked prices. The money obtained by increasing the wholesale terms should be expended in further judicious advertising, which will keep up the demand and more than compensate for the cutter's ill-will.

As to substitution, or rather imitation, manufacturers will find store-windows crammed full of preparations put up to compete against well-known and widely-advertised articles.

A qualified man who devotes his attention to one shop has not time to imitate every proprietary article that makes a name for itself; besides, the initial expense of labels, bottles, wrappers, &c., got up expressly, would be a deterrent; but to a firm that has a large number of businesses this item would reckon as nothing in the balance-sheet.

Yours faithfully,

SCRUTATOR. (196/53.)

#### DISPENSING NOTES.

Correspondents should consult "The Art of Dispensing" in regard to dispensing difficulties. Difficulties not explained therein may be sent to the Editor, who invites a general expression of opinion upon the under-mentioned topics.

#### Belladonna and Tannin Suppositories.

Last week *Euclid* (190/17) asked how the following suppositories should be made in the examination-room:—

Ext. bellad.	..	..	..	..	gr. ij.
Ac. tannic.	..	..	..	..	gr. iij.
Ol. theobrom.	..	..	..	..	q s.

Ft. supp. Mitte vj.

The following are a few of the methods which correspondents have communicated:—

*Mr. W. H. Wilcock* (Honiton).—Rub down ext. belladon. with small quantity of water, and add to the melted ol. theobrom. when it begins to cool. Then rub the tannic acid into fine powder, and stir it in gradually and make suppository.

*Mr. T. D. Macqueen* (Buxburn).—Melt the ol. theobrom., rub down the extract with a few drops of water, and mix with half of the melted fat and return to the dish. Put the tannin on a hot pill-tile, and pour on half of the mixture in the dish, mix thoroughly, and again return to the dish. Stir the whole together, and if it is quickly and expertly done there will be no lumps.

*Mr. A. H. Forrester* (Hereford).—Rub down on slab ext. bell. and tann. with aq. m. x. (for 3). Melt ol. theobr. at lowest temperature, pour nearly the whole on a slab, and rub all up well together; return to vessel (a thin gallipot), mix, and without any further heating pour into the oiled mould.

*Mr. James H. Riddell* (Glasgow).—Use a drop of water to make ext. belladonnæ of the consistence of a thick syrup, and reduce the tannic acid to a fine powder. Rub these up separately with a little of the melted oil; then mix them thoroughly together, and transfer to the remainder of the melted oil and stir together. Use as little heat as possible.

*Mr. T. E. Campion* (Waterford) rubbed the ext. belladonnæ with a few drops of water, and mixed the tannin and theobroma oil, incorporated the extract with this (using as little heat as possible), and obtained a good suppository; but, judging from the specimen received, a little spotty.

203/46. *R. L.* (Aberdeen) experiences the same difficulty as "Euclid" regarding the above when trying to pour into the mould, but by pressing into a slightly-warmed mould they come out lovely, he says.

## LEGAL QUERIES.

Immediate information on pharmaco-legal matters is available in "Pharmacy and Poison Laws of the United Kingdom," Alpe's "Handy-book of Medicine-stamp Duty," and THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY.

200/34. *Devonport*.—The statement on the Gloucester prescription envelope which you send us that "under Sir John Lubbock's recent Act messengers cannot be employed after 8 P.M." is not correct. The Shop Hours Act only provides that young persons (that is, persons under 18) may not be employed for more than seventy-four hours altogether in the week, and the seventy-four hours must include meal times. (2) We believe that excise officers do not supply a methylated-spirit licence to persons licensed to sell wines; but, on application to the Board of Inland Revenue, such a licence is sometimes supplied on condition that the spirit is kept and sold in unopened bottles only.

198/54. *E. W.*—If you can satisfy a Court that there has been a breach of agreement, you can no doubt recover reasonable damages. But do not take action without the advice of a trustworthy solicitor. The circumstances as you tell them to us do not disclose any breach of agreement.

202/6. *Dispenser*.—Anyone may prescribe. What an unqualified person may not do is to "act as an apothecary"—that is, judge of disease by its symptoms and supply medicine for its relief. It is not illegal for an unregistered person to keep "drug-stores," or to sell or compound medicines other than poisons.

201/49. *Water*.—If one member of a firm is a pharmaceutical chemist and the other is not it would be an infringement of the Pharmacy Act, 1852, for the firm to describe themselves as pharmaceutical chemists. But we do not think it would be illegal for a lamp to be exhibited with the name of the pharmaceutical chemist only on it, with his title. We cannot explain why the Pharmaceutical Society should not take proceedings in a particular case.

201/29. *Zeta*.—We think your reading of the Petroleum Act is correct—namely, that it requires every lot of benzene kept or sold to be labelled with a description of the petroleum (benzene in this case), with the words "highly inflammable," and with the name and address of the owner or vendor. The section seems to apply to any quantity, however small, though we are not aware that the requirement has ever been enforced in respect of little bottles such as chemists sell.

203/57. *Alf*.—It is probable that you could punish the imitation of your signature in other ways, but registration of it as a trade-mark is the simplest method to adopt.

203/15. *Flak*.—We see nothing in your label which should render the mixture liable to medicine-stamp duty, but we should advise you to send the copy to Somerset House and get an authoritative assurance. (2) We did not know that 1864 pennies had a special value. We cannot tell you anything about them.

189/64. *Oracle*.—Beecham's "Oracle" idea, and the invisible printing connected with it, are fully protected by patents, and you cannot use either without the firm's consent, which we have reason to believe has been refused to several advertisers.

195/56. *Phlogiston*.—A company registered with or without articles of association should, on ceasing to carry on business, pass a resolution for voluntary liquidation and thus formally dissolve. Failing this, a requisition signed by all the members, stating that operations have been discontinued, should be forwarded to the Registrar, who will then strike the name off. A list of those concerns which have failed to comply with the statutes is periodically published in the *London Gazette*, giving three months' notice of dissolution by striking the name off the Register, and if no objection is received the course threatened is carried out. The Registrar does not "compulsorily wind-up" a company. It should be noted that the liability of every member continues, unless the company is liquidated (either voluntarily or compulsorily) in due form.

## MISCELLANEOUS INQUIRIES.

*N.B.*—All queries should be accompanied by the business card of a subscriber or the address label from THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST wrapper. We destroy anonymous letters. We do not answer queries of the kind here dealt with by post. We ask that separate queries shall be written on separate sheets of paper.

NO SAMPLES will be analysed and reported upon unless the sender labels the sample with his name and the name of the article, and informs us (not necessarily for publication) by whom the article is made, for what purpose and how it is used, and any further particulars of interest. We do not undertake analyses which are of interest solely to senders of samples.

Back numbers containing formulae, educational or other specific information can be obtained from the Publisher.

193/7. *Paper*.—We should have explained that the nursery powder (p. 442) should be allowed to become moist, then dried, and sifted before adding the perfume. Borax and boric acid must always be so treated. Is that not generally known?

189/21. *A. J. S.* has several pairs of steel-blue spectacle-frames which have become rusty, how can he restore the colour? That can only be done by reheating, and he would be unwise to attempt it, as it requires skilled labour. Better return them to the maker from whom they were purchased.

188/69. *Eccleshall*.—Oil of rose-geranium or citronella is commonly used for covering the odour of petroleum hair-wash. It is all right as long as it is in the bottle, but when on the hair —!

184/9. *E. & H.* submit the following paragraph from *Pearson's Weekly* for our opinion:—

What Chemical Reaction Takes Place when Iron Rusts?—The old idea that iron rusted or oxidized by uniting with the oxygen of water and setting free the hydrogen is now exploded. In the first place, it has been noticed that iron will not rust in dry air or chemically pure water. Thus, for instance, in Arequipa, in Southern Peru, not only will iron not rust in the open air, but rusty iron brought up from the coast will become clear again. It now seems certain that carbonic acid is necessary to the rusting of iron, the reaction seeming to be as follows: First, ferrous carbonate is formed. This is dissolved in the slightly acidulated water and becomes ferrous bicarbonate. This in turn decomposes in presence of air into "magnetic oxide," and this last makes, with the water, the hydrated ferric-oxide or reddish-brown powder, which is known as iron-rust. Electricity again, seems to have something to do with it. If, of two metals soldered together, one be electro-positive to the other, the oxidation or rusting will be slower in the positive and more rapid in the negative.

This is a fair statement of the facts, which have been known for about forty years, as the result of the late Dr. Grace Calvert's investigations. What the writer has omitted is some reference to the part played by the carbon in the iron. It appears that this is partially oxidised, but most of it passes off in the form of hydrocarbons.

190/45. *Inquirer.*—Barbour's Mixture is a Glasgow household remedy, and consists of the dry ingredients of tr. camb. co. in the official proportions. A drachm of it sells for 8d., and is put into two gills (10 oz.) of whisky. A teaspoonful of this tincture is a dose.

190/30. *Janc.*—(1) Our experience of Mel Boracis as made with glycerine is that it does not crystallise; but we shall be glad to hear from anyone who, like you, finds that the borax "settles and cakes at the bottom." (2) You ask, "Is it justifiable to put up Martindale's syr. ferri phos. co. as Parrish's?" Saving the fact that it is not made by Parrish, we see no reason why you should not. Quite a variety of compound phosphate syrups are sold as Parrish's, and no one can say which is right and which is wrong. Messrs. Squire & Sons, who originally imported the syrup as made by Parrish, and afterwards acquired the right to make it in this country, have abandoned the use of the word "Parrish," apparently because they do not consider it of value, or, rather, that they do not wish their preparation to be associated in any way with the name of an article which varies so greatly in quality.

128/45. *Geordie.*—Parma Violets is made from ionone, but we have not a "working formula." If any subscriber has one that he cares to part with we shall be glad to publish it.

180/64. *A. F. B.*—(1) Laundry Blue: Powdered Prussian blue 5s., oxalic acid 5j. This is sufficient for a wine-bottleful of water, and makes a blue which goes well in some parts of the country but not in others. For example, it is useless in London, probably owing to the composition of the water. The best quality of Prussian blue only should be used. Ultramarine mixed with kaolin gives the most satisfactory thumb blue. (2) The best thing for keeping the colour in flannel before washing is fresh ox-gall, about a tablespoonful to 10 gallons of water.

181/68. *Cinnamon.*—The only way to get more heat out of paraffin is to burn it with a large supply of air. To get that a Swedish stove is the best thing. Communicate with Messrs. W. B. Fordham & Sons (Limited) or Messrs. O. Berend & Co., whose advertisements you will find in the DIARY.

186/51. *J. C. M.*—What is it you wish to register in regard to the cream—the title, label, or what? If as a trade-mark, the first step you have to take is to get from a money-order office the 5s. application-form F, for trade-marks registration, fill it up, and send in to the Comptroller-General of Trade Marks, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, W.C. You will find all about the matter in our DIARY.

186/3. *Phenacetin.*—Blackheads.—The best treatment is to use ichthyol soap only in washing, and apply the following ointment at bedtime:—

Boracis .. .. .	5i.
Sulphur. precip. .. .	5j.
Ol. amygdal. .. .	5ij.
Lanolin. .. .	3vi.

Mix and perfume.

Wash this off next morning with the following lotion:—

Acid. nitric. dil. .. .	℥ss.
Glycerini .. .	5j.
Aq. coloniensis .. .	5iv.

M.

190/5. *Stable.*—Ægypticum or Ung. Ægyptiacum is made by boiling together 5 oz. powdered verdigris, 14 oz. of honey, and 7 oz. of vinegar to the consistence of an ointment. Mel Ægypticum is the thin fluid which collects on the top of the preparation after standing some time. It is impossible to make a clear fluid of the ingredients in the formula which you send.

186/14. *Jason.*—The favourite Baby and Toilet Powder nowadays is one consisting simply of finely-powdered boric acid, perfumed and coloured if desired. The following is also excellent:—

Acid. boric. .. .	5iv.
Acid. salicylic. .. .	5j.
Carmin. .. .	gr. v.
Creta Gallica .. .	5xv.
Iononi .. .	gr. vi.
Otto rose .. .	℥vi.

Triturate the carmine and perfumes with 1oz. of the chalk, add the rest of the powders, and sift three times through a No. 180 sieve.

186/16. *Perchlor.*—Blood-purifier.—There is little to be gained by adding liq. hyd. perchlor. to the blood-purifier, and you have to face the possibility of giving it to someone who does not require mercury. On the whole, arsenic is better in blood-mixtures; it acts upon the skin, and is a real tonic. Try the following:—

Ferri et ammon. cit. .. .	5ij.
Potassii iodidi .. .	5ij.
Liq. arsenicalis .. .	5j.
Glycerini .. .	5vi.
Aq. chloroformi ad .. .	5viij.

M.

Dose: A tablespoonful thrice daily after food.

188/13. *J. B. A.*—Liq. Vol. C.C. is a solution of carbonate of ammonia which used to be distilled from hartshorn, but is not so made now. Probably it is simply 4 oz. of the carbonate in 1 pint of distilled water.

187/65. *R. A. N.*—Coated Compressed Tablets.—Sugar-coating is best, and can only be applied by the usual means—viz., application of a syrupy mixture by means of a revolving steam-pan. Perhaps a gelatine-coating may equally serve the purpose. See "The Art of Dispensing" instructions for pill-coating.

187/55. *Pison.*—Solution for Silver Electroplating:—

Nitrate of silver .. .	3ss.
Cyanide of potassium .. .	5v.
Distilled water .. .	3xxxij.

Dissolve the cyanide in the water, then the nitrate in that solution.

The anode to use in the bath must be a sheet of fine silver. The articles to be plated should have a grey appearance during the process, and gradually take a white appearance on the current being interrupted. If they are always white put more cyanide in the bath. When there is too much cyanide the articles take a black appearance.

187/63. *Antipyrin*.—Destroying Beetles.—We cannot add to the information contained in our issue of June 23, page 881.

188/1. *Cough Balsam*.—(1) You will find several formulae for cough-mixtures in our issue of January 26. (2) Strange to say, mercuric iodide is not a scheduled poison, although it is as poisonous as corrosive sublimate. Unqualified persons may, therefore, sell it.

192/8. *E. & H.*—The ink does not require to be heated, and, as far as our experience goes, it is indelible. The quantities given are those of the inventor, and we worked by them, getting a good ink (but with an excessive deposit). In consequence of that objection, we suggest that someone with more time than ourselves and more chance of making profit out of it should try to improve the formula

192/71. *B. P.*—Worm balls for Horses.—The following formula is from the new edition of "Veterinary Counter Practice":—

Santonin ..	..	..	..	..	5j.
Tartar emetic ..	..	..	..	..	5ss.
Physic mass ..	..	..	..	..	3ss.
Make a ball.					

194/32. *Willocene*.—You have overlooked the fact that we do not report upon samples unless we have full particulars regarding them. These you do not supply.

195/68. *F. L.*—Sale of Cod-liver Oil in London.—Parcels of cod-liver oil are frequently consigned by firms in Norway, Hamburg, and elsewhere to London banks from importers, and subsequently sold by auction. Only a *bona-fide* drug-broker, however, can sell by auction, and the bank or merchant-house to whom the oil is consigned must employ such a broker, who receives for his services a commission of 1 per cent. from the selling and  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. from the buying firm, in addition to his expenses. It would not be possible for the bank or for consignee to sell the goods by auction without the intervention of a broker. Nor would a *bona-fide* broker receive consignments from abroad direct. The consignee could of course sell the goods privately, but this would probably be a more expensive mode of procedure than to employ a broker conversant with the business. The making of advances on goods is a matter of private arrangement. Messrs. Jenkin & Phillips, 21 Mincing Lane, E.C., are old-established brokers who make a speciality of cod-liver oil.

183/33. *F. B.*—Japanese, or, rather, Chinese Wood-oil, from *Aleuritis cordata*, the Tung-tree, is not exported to Europe, although there is an enormous trade in the article in China, over 60 tons a year being sent from Hankow down the Yang-tse-Kiang to Chinese shipping ports. We should think that it would pay to introduce the oil into European commerce. Its chief use would probably be found in the varnish-industry; small quantities might possibly be employed in medicine, as the oil is said to have been found useful in certain skin-affections. The Chinese use it for caulking and painting boats and for painting and preserving woodwork.

201/63. *Omego*.—One part of Capsicin is equal to 20 parts of capsicum. From this you may calculate how much of the resin should go into your wine essence.

201/68. *Vulcanite*.—(1) We have no practical knowledge of the manufacture and moulding of vulcanite. (2) Cold-cream Formulae.—*C. & D.*, April 25, page 602, and May 30, page 779.

195/6. *Chantic'eer*. The dose is large, but not fatal. Give  $\frac{1}{12}$  gr.

202/3. *Scot*.—Cod-liver Oil Emulsion made with yolk of egg does not keep over six months. You will find the one in the 1896 DIARY, page 231, much better in this respect, especially if you add to each pint 10 gr. of salicylic acid.

197/74. *Coca*.—Coca-wine is best made from the leaves, in the proportion of  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. to the gallon of the best Tarragona port. Macerate for a month, decant, and rack for another month before filtering.

## INFORMATION SUPPLIED.

For this section we are always glad to receive from subscribers brief notes on practical subjects, recipes which have been found good in practice or which have required modification, and hints or fresh ideas on any pharmaceutical or trade matter.

*E. Wilson's Hair-lotion*.—Aq. mellis, to be of any service to encourage the growth of the hair, should be made by distillation [according to Gray's "Companion," viz., honey, 4 lbs.; very dry sand, 2 lbs. distil.], and not the odorous, as usually put into this renowned hair-lotion.

J. S. SHORTT (Dublin).

[This is a good point; but how many pharmacists have dispensed the lotion with the old aq. mellis? Was it intended by the famous surgeon?—*Ed. C. & D.*]

## INFORMATION WANTED.

199/23. Who supplies linen (or cotton) bags as used by packers of bird-seeds?

## Coming Events.

Notices of Association and Society meetings will be inserted in this section free of charge if we receive intimation of such meetings by Wednesday of the week previous to that in which the meetings are to be held.

Saturday, October 24.

Pharmaceutical Football Club v. Melrose Rovers, at Hendon. Train from King's Cross (Midland) at 2.27. Kick-off at 3.30.

Tuesday, October 27.

Royal Photographic Society. Technical meeting at the Gallery, 5A Pall Mall East, at 8 p.m. Demonstration of acetylene apparatus for portraiture and the optical lantern by Mr. C. Huddle.

Wednesday, October 28.

Brighton Junior Association of Pharmacy. Newbury Hall, at 9 p.m. Mr. B. Lomax, F.L.S., on "Wasps."

Midland Chemists' Assistants' Association, Exchange Rooms<sup>1</sup> Birmingham, at 9 p.m. Musical and social evening.

Thursday, October 29.

The committee of the Chemists' Club announce a smoking-concert to be held at the Club at 8 p.m., Mr. Horace Davenport in the chair. Tickets for non-members may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, W. A. Goodall, 1 Elm Park Terrace, Fulham Road, who will also be glad to receive intimation from any who will contribute, musically or otherwise.

Chemists' Assistants' Association, 103 Great Russell Street, W.C., at 9 p.m. Short papers by members.

At the next evening meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society, to be held at 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C., on Tuesday, November 10, Professor J. Norman Collie, Ph.D., F.R.S., will deliver a lecture on "The Discovery of Argon and Helium."